

Wickman, Erik

From: Gail Richardson <envirogail@q.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 5:01 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mountain lion quotas and grizzly bear tri-state memo of agreement

When will FWP get real scientists onboard and the Commission get back to science regarding predators and their essential role in our wild ecosystems that people come to MT to explore. The extreme mountain lion quotas have NO scientific basis. This is simply a continuing war on predators on behalf of trophy hunters and hound hunters and of course the agriculture industry. This abject cruelty must end. You only listen to a select few when making decisions on our public wildlife heritage, the few who see wildlife only for consumptive purposes or as vermin. This is not what Montanans want or expect from what was an excellent agency which has been hollowed out by Gianforte and company.

Then there is the grizzly bear fiasco in the making. Again, the hollowed out FWP and the Commission kowtow to special interests like trophy hunters at the expense of the Great Bear and the overwhelming majority of Montanans. Grizzlies are not recovered; the science is not there to delist because MT-WY-ID fish and games are controlled by commercial interests who want to wipe out predators, the hell with balance, biodiversity and science. What you are doing makes us embarrassed to be Montanans. We value our precious native wildlife heritage. You have the responsibility to manage it for future generations. You are not.

Gail and John Richardson
5263 Cimmeron Drive
Bozeman, MT 59715

Wickman, Erik

From: djfilson3@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 6:39 PM
To: FWP Commission
Cc: djfilson3@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mountain Lion kill quotas

Greetings, Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission,

These comments are to address the proposal that continues the excessively high mountain lion kill quota of 237, adopted in 2023.

The quota in lion management units (LMUs), covering most of Region 2 is 280, even higher.

The rationale for the 280 quota is to reduce the mountain lion population by 30-40% with no reasons given to support that reduction.

The wording given from Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) is, "To reduce pressure on lion abundance". What does that mean?

Commissioner Burrows explained that means there are a lot of mountain lions. How about requiring some real scientific (best practice) data on which to make decisions?

Another justification given was to "reduce predation on ungulates in LMUs 240, 250 and 270.

But, we know elk populations are in abundance now, often requiring special hunts to keep them in check. Many factors can impact ungulate populations: extreme winter weather, loss of food sources and diseases like Chronic Wasting Disease. To cite that as a reason for high kill quotas of mountain lions is just a convenient, but inaccurate, reason to allow the torture and harassment of this keystone species. It appears FWP has abdicated its responsibility to ensure sound wildlife management in favor of catering to profit-motivated guides, outfitters and trophy hunters. The prolonged seven month kill season is inhumane and unsustainable, not thorough, professional wildlife management.

Wildlife watching is supported by the majority of the public and provides a substantial source of revenue to the state of Montana.

Out-of-control hound hunting dogs pose a safety risk to the public and their companion animals recreating on public lands as well as many other wildlife and bird species. Your policy condones this and allows a keystone species to be inhumanely chased and harassed to death.

The leftovers of mountain lion kills, like any large carnivores, provide sustenance to many other smaller species and contribute to a healthy ecosystem. Their loss from the landscape would mean the entire ecosystem would change drastically.

All of these factors should be considered and addressed when establishing any wildlife kill quotas by the very agency mandated to manage the well-being and future viability of wildlife species in Montana.

These mountain lion kill quotas are excessively high and unjustified and will cause untold ecological damage if allowed to continue.

Vote against them.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Dorothy Filson
Bozeman, MT

Wickman, Erik

From: Carla Bonetti <carlabonetti@me.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 3:42 PM
To: Connie Poten
Cc: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: MOUNTAIN LION COMMENT

FWP has gone off the deep end. Thanks Gianforte.

Great comment, Connie.

On May 27, 2024, at 11:35 AM, Connie Poten <rattlefarm@gmail.com> wrote:

Please find our comment regarding mountain lion quotas, seasons attached.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Connie Poten
Footloose Montana board chair

--

Constance J. Poten
4175 Rattlesnake Drive
Missoula, MT 59802
406-274-4791

<FM comment Lions 5.26.24.docx>

Wickman, Erik

From: kathryn and neal <rynneal@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 27, 2024 11:43 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mountain Lion Quotas

Greetings to all members of the Fish and Wildlife Commission,

I appreciate being able to comment on the proposed Mountain Lion Quotas.

I am glad these quotas are only PROPOSED.

I STRONGLY urge the Commissioners to decrease the quota to ZERO!

The Fish and Wildlife Commissioners are on a role to kill predators. We already tried this tactic years ago and that did NOT work out well!

As a predator, mountain lions play a crucial role in maintaining a balance between predator and prey that is sooo very important for any ecosystem. They help to keep ungulate species healthy by weeding out the sick and weak. The leftovers from the mountain lion dinner table feed other smaller creatures that depend on these leftovers for their own survival. Lions are rarely seem, much less cause a problem for ranchers or city-folk. If there is a problem with mountain lions and ranchers, the anomalous lion should be dealt with individually.

If FWP has proposed to decrease mountain lion numbers to satisfy desires by hunters to have plenty of ungulates to kill, then THAT reason is pathetic. There are far more elk and deer in Montana than there were years ago. If FWP has proposed to decrease mountain lion numbers in the interest of hunters who want to hang a lion head on their wall, then THAT is despicable.

Ecosystems need predators. Mountain lions range the landscape as an integral part of the habitats across Montana. The proposal to decrease the mountain lion population by 30-40 % has NO basis in science. What evidence is there that there are too many mountain lions in Montana and what scientific evidence is there to support this killing goal? Who has the power and knowledge to say there are too many mountain lions? Such a number is very subjective and random. Biologists and wildlife "managers" do NOT have all the answers about what is proper for the landscape. Leave the creatures to sort out the balance of numbers as they have done for eons. They lived for THOUSANDS of years without humans thinking they knew best what creatures should live on the landscape and how many get to live.

The roll of FWP should be to maintain healthy populations of the wildlife in our state in the interest of the integrity of the ecosystems, the future health of these ecosystems and for the honorable reason to simply appreciate the creatures with which we share this space. Mountain lions have as much right to live here as we do. I urge the Commissioners to humble themselves to the wildlife of this state and stop killing mountain lions. Period.

Most sincerely,
Kathryn Hiestand
188 Meadowlark Drive
Bozeman, MT 59718

Wickman, Erik

From: Susanne O'Connor <susannemeasure@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 26, 2024 7:25 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Mountain lions, grizzly bears and wolves. No killing of any of the above. My grandchildren have never seen any of these in the wild and likely never will. You are destroying their heritage and Montana.

Wickman, Erik

From: Randy Setter <randysetter325@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 8:57 PM
To: FWP Commission
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Region 2 mountain lion amendments . HOLY #### ! The Gianforte administration is the worst. Anti predator b.s . I am a hunter a Montanan and this increase is ridiculous. FWP is a joke anymore!!!!!!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone \[mail.onelink.me\]](mailto:mail.onelink.me)