

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 01, 2024 12:28:30 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 01, 2024 12:45:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:23
IP Address: 172.56.201.112

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Stacey Baertsch
City/Town: Helena
State/Province: MT
Email Address: empirelodge@hotmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

I don't understand the logic behind increasing a LMU quota by 50% when quota aren't even being filled. When FWP hired Houndsman to tree and dart lions in LMU 339 they were only able to catch two lions. Having a low lion population does not warrant increased quotas, if anything the quotas should be decreased. And to change the female (sub) quota from 2 to 5 would have a hugely negative impact on the lion population.

It's becoming very apparent that FWP's objective is not to manage the population, but rather eradicate lions. If the commission approves these changes the effects are going to be devastating.

I ask that you reconsider these quotas and at the very least leave them at status quo. Thank you for reading my concerns.

Stacey Baertsch
President of Montana State Houndsman Association.

#2

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, May 03, 2024 1:50:49 PM
Last Modified: Friday, May 03, 2024 1:51:34 PM
Time Spent: 00:00:44
IP Address: 50.52.72.250

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Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Name: | Dorian Boling |
| City/Town: | Libby |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | dorianboling@gmail.com |

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

Keep the current quotas for mountain lion.

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, May 07, 2024 5:26:14 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, May 07, 2024 7:43:58 PM
Time Spent: 02:17:43
IP Address: 47.47.156.190

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Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Name: | Jason Butler |
| City/Town: | Lolo |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | jbut1020@gmail.com |

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

I wholeheartedly endorse the proposed mountain lion regulations for the upcoming 2024-25 season. It is commendable that the commission is taking into account the recommendations provided by the west central LEPOC in setting the season quotas. By incorporating these guidelines, the commission demonstrates a commitment to informed decision-making and responsible wildlife management. Such measures are crucial for maintaining ecological balance while ensuring the safety of both human populations and wildlife. I fully support these efforts and encourage further collaboration between stakeholders to safeguard our natural resources for future generations.

#4

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Last Modified: Monday, May 13, 2024 1:20:41 PM
Time Spent: 00:14:40
IP Address: 174.234.0.226

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Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Name: | Justin Burdett |
| City/Town: | Victor |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | Burdett500@yahoo.com |

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

The department proposed lion quotas seem counter intuitive to what the public, lion hunters, fwp commision, and the west central LEPOC have recommended. The department and fwp biologists obviously do not care to help our struggling ungulate populations especially in units 240,250,270 and 280. We have struggling mule deer, big horn sheep, and mountain goat populations as a direct result of over predation from lions. That is why the lepoc suggested those districts especially be focal areas to reduce the lion populations to help our ungulates. The commision also recognized that there are areas where we need to reduce lion populations, the public has been supportive of saving trophy mule deer herds, making sure we don't loose our big horn sheep and mountain goats to over predation! It does not make any sense to me why our biologists are actively working to try and destroy our wildlife we all love. The departments proposal to lower the lion quotas in these LMUs is truly appalling.

#5

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Time Spent: 00:16:39
IP Address: 66.62.89.101

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Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Name: | Jeff Darrah |
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| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | jdarrah21@gmail.com |

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

As the Executive Director of Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (MTSFW) I am making the following comments. MTSFW supports control of all predators, not just mountain lions. MTSFW's VP Bill Mitchell served on the West Central LEPOC representing MTSFW. MTSFW feels that the science team and the 12 member citizen committee did a very thorough job. The WC LEPOC recommends a total of 230 lions be taken in the area. The LEPOC recommendations are science backed and areas where ungulates are the focal points more lions are taken and in areas where lions are the focal point quotas are not increased.

There are many interests regarding lion populations, with age structure being important to most. MTSFW supports efforts in the future by the LEPOC structure and supports having a representative from each LMU.

MTSFW supports controlling mountain populations in LMU's where ungulate populations are below objective, but also expects that FWP use in concert all other methods available to bring ungulate numbers up, such as controlling hunter harvest and hunter overcrowding. In LMU's where the lion numbers are down and ungulate numbers are above objective MTSFW supports a reduced harvest of lions.

So in closing MTSFW supports the West Central's LEPOC recommendation of reducing the lion harvest quota from 280 to 230 lions.

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Friday, May 17, 2024 12:01:01 PM
Time Spent: Over a week
IP Address: 174.234.20.8

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Trent Sullivan
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State/Province: MT
Email Address: t24.sullivan@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

The lepec didn't suggest raising quotas in 350/370 nor 318/335 or 339 those areas need to go back to last years numbers.

#7

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 8:30:39 AM
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Time Spent: 00:00:58
IP Address: 69.51.103.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Name: | Rose Bensley |
| City/Town: | Bozeman |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | rosemariebensley@gmail.com |

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

I support the plan to set up different mountain lion quotas because it is what's best for all of the animals and the surrounding people of Montana. The population of mountain lions needs to be somewhat smaller to not only keep all of them safe, but additionally, it helps keep the population of their prey (like sheep and deer) thriving so the ecosystem can be balanced. According to Fish Wildlife and Parks it is important to keep the mountain lion populations in check which is what this quota system will accomplish keeping the environment thriving. Socially this will be beneficial because according to the Mountain Lion Foundation it is important for the health of the animals to make sure the population is in a good size range. And economically this will be helpful because according to ISSUU a lot of money from buying licenses can go back into the community to help wildlife and animals.

#8

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Time Spent: 00:06:24
IP Address: 63.151.86.194

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Name: | Jack Polch |
| City/Town: | Great Falls |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | huntforthewall@gamil.com |

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

Why would you folks increase the lion harvest in areas that have over objective elk numbers? If the elk numbers are such a concern , a normal person would think a few more predator's would be beneficial. It's time that the FWP accepts the fact that they are not going to get access to those ranches that are bought for elk hunting.

#9

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Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 136.33.234.231

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Christopher J Tymeson
City/Town: Overland Park
State/Province: KS
Email Address: ctymeson@scifirstforhunters.org

Mountain Lion Quotas

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

22 May 2024

2024 Montana Mountain Lion Quotas
C/O Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Re: 2024 Montana Mountain Lion Quotas

Dear Commissioners and Director Temple:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2024 Montana Mountain Lion Quotas.

The proposed 2024 Montana Mountain Lion Quotas generally demonstrate responsible and sustainable management of mountain lions. SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, including mountain lions, is necessary to the long-term health of wildlife. Hunters have long paid the way for conservation, both game and non-game wildlife, and maximizing opportunity for hunting is also key to long-term funding for all conservation. Hunting benefits wildlife conservation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the 2024 Montana Mountain Lion Quotas. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and we appreciate the continued partnership with the FWP and the Commission. SCI is always first for hunters.

Sincerely,
W. Laird Hamberlin
Chief Executive Officer
Safari Club International

#10

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Last Modified: Thursday, May 23, 2024 9:08:21 AM
Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 69.51.103.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **sawyer rogers**
City/Town: **bozeman**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **sawyer.rogers@bsd7students.org**

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

For many reasons regarding the effects (both positive and negative) that mountain lions pose in the state of Montana, I agree with the proposed quotas in the lion management units. Many of these units have seen steady harvest rates of mountain lions and as seen in the given unit table, the ecoregion has an average harvest of 151 lions per year. However, with these numbers as seen on the information sheet, there could be a roughly 10 percent increase in lion numbers. For many regions with higher deer populations this could be beneficial, however with the recent downward trends of the state's mule deer numbers, an increase in tags for units with high cat populations could help deer populations thrive again. As such, the proposed quotas for this year (280/year), should be extremely beneficial to our state and the population sustainability of both deer and mountain lions.

#11

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Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Name: | Ryan Castle |
| City/Town: | Marion |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | Ryanz.castle@gmail.com |

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

I ask that the commision adopt alternative A, the recommendation by the department that incorporates feedback provided by the LEPOC. It is concensus of the local houndsmen that the mew lion quotas placed are way to high and the data provided by the monitoring program is the best available data we have and the lepoc should be listened to because it comes from the people.

#12

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Last Modified: Friday, May 24, 2024 10:25:42 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:44
IP Address: 50.52.72.250

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Dorian Boling
City/Town: Libby
State/Province: MT

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

I agree with the quotas presented.

#13

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Time Spent: 00:02:37
IP Address: 63.153.110.14

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Name: | joe hundley |
| City/Town: | Darby |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | joehundley@yahoo.com |

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

Agree with commissioner Burrows-need more lions taken out of the Bitterroot especially females. Stop growing more lions. Mule Deer need a break for once.

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, May 27, 2024 7:50:59 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:31
IP Address: 216.47.59.118

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: Kathy Kinzfohl
City/Town: Bigfork
State/Province: MT
Email Address: birdfrog@blackfoot.net

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

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n These quotas are excessive and should be reduced substantially. The department's excuse, "To reduce pressure on lion abundance" is gobbledygook for harassing, torturing, and killing lots of mountain lions for fun. It's demeaning, unprofessional and disrespectful. This 'purpose' makes it abundantly clear that FWP has abandoned its responsibility to protect and sustain predator species for future generations. There is no science behind killing mountain lions because they are abundant. Especially when they are not abundant, according to most lion hunters. It's up to the commission to rein in this exploitation of publicly owned wildlife.

n These dramatically increased killing quotas are not sound wildlife management. They are deliberate mismanagement for special interests, which include profiteering outfitters, 'guides' from out of state, and trophy addicts who can never get enough.

n The director of the Montana State Houndsmen Association spoke out against these extreme quotas. He pointed out that blaming mountain lions for killing ungulates is not substantiated and there are many other reasons for fluctuations in ungulate populations—hard winters, starvation, disease. There is no scientific data or justification that there is undue mountain lion pressure on ungulates. There is nothing to back up these high killing quotas. Vote against them.

#15

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Last Modified: Monday, May 27, 2024 7:55:21 AM
Time Spent: 00:01:08
IP Address: 216.47.59.118

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

Name: **Kathy Kinzfogl**
City/Town: **Bigfork**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **birdfrog@blackfoot.net**

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

n Wildlife watchers make up the vast majority of the public who would be thrilled to see mountain lions alive in the wild. Instead, the mountain lion population is being hounded to death. There is nothing fair chase about it, and nothing right about wiping out a regal carnivore.

n Mountain lions contribute to healthy ecosystems and biodiversity. They are an essential part of the natural web of life. The prey they kill feeds a host of other species. Protecting predators is not anti-hunting. It is protecting the biodiversity and ecological health of our Treasure State.

#16

COMPLETE

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Time Spent: Over a day
IP Address: 72.175.53.185

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Name: | Montana Wildlife Federation |
| City/Town: | Missoula |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | jeff@mtwf.org |

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

The Montana Wildlife Federation supports Commissioner Burrows' amendments for R2 LMUs and believes the quotas suggested are a more conservative approach that reflects what biologists and lion hunters are seeing in those areas. MWF was pleased to see the effort made by Montanans who participated in the Lion Ecoregional Population Objective Committee (LEPOC) result in a solid plan for long term management of lions in the west-central portion of the state. Much like deer, fish, and elk, when the folks on the ground who know their resource best come together armed with science and guidance from FWP, the potential for good resource management increases. MWF is supportive of the findings and proposals presented for lion management in this region.

By approaching LMUs in a more granular fashion, this proposal ensures that each quota in each LMU best reflects both the current population and the projected population, while taking into account social factors (human conflict) and age class. While this process may take more time than proposals that are more of a blanket approach, the result should be a more stable population where there are fluctuations, and a reduction in human/lion conflict where it is an issue. We are also very pleased to see ungulate populations be considered in certain areas where mule deer populations are in decline. This thoughtful approach should have a wider range of support from stakeholders and citizens, as it takes into account a variety of concerns from each LMU. We commend FWP and those who participated in the LEPOC for their work.

#17

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Time Spent: 00:07:58
IP Address: 73.186.50.116

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Name: | Sarah Stewart |
| City/Town: | Gardiner |
| State/Province: | MT |
| Email Address: | sarahbstewart@yahoo.com |

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Quotas

These quotas are too high and should be greatly reduced. The department's excuse, "To reduce pressure on lion abundance" is with no data and seems like focused on torturing and killing mountain lions for fun. Something is very very wrong with the way our wildlife is being treated and we are extremely concerned about it. This 'purpose' makes it abundantly clear that FWP has abandoned its responsibility to protect and sustain predator species for future generations. There is no science behind killing mountain lions because they are abundant. Especially when they are not abundant, according to most lion hunters. The director of the Montana State Houndsmen Association spoke out against these extreme quotas. It's up to the commission to rein in this exploitation of publicly owned wildlife.

There is nothing to back up these high killing quotas. Vote against them.

In addition, the prolonged season of seven months for the sport of trophy hunters is inhumane and unsustainable and really absurd! In LMUs 150 and 280, hound hunting for the entire seven months promotes sadistic torture of wildlife. Houndsmen do not have complete control over their dogs. Allowing hound hunting in certain areas for seven months means many non target animals, including companion and bird hunting dogs, are vulnerable to attack by frenzied packs of hounds on the hunt. This is a takeover of public lands by hound hunters who pay no penalty for carnage of publicly owned wildlife and domestic animals.

Also, wildlife watchers make up the vast majority of the public who would be thrilled to see mountain lions alive in the wild. Protecting predators is not anti-hunting. It is protecting the biodiversity and ecological health of our wild lands and our tourism. We are already feeling the strain of our embarrassing wildlife cruelty from tourists mentioning our cruelty and nonscience towards our treatment of wolves

#18

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, May 27, 2024 6:51:10 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:02
IP Address: 69.146.14.205

Page 1

Q1

Contact information:

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|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Name: | Dorothy Filson |
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| State/Province: | MT |
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Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion 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.
