

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 4:30:21 PM
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IP Address: 69.144.145.42

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	Will Israel
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	director@mogamt.org

Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Fish and Wildlife Commission

Re: License Year 2027 Mountain Lion Regulations, Charles M. Russell and UL Bend National Wildlife Refuges

June 12, 2026 Commission Meeting

The Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA) submits this comment in support of the proposed mountain lion hound hunting regulations on the Charles M. Russell and UL Bend National Wildlife Refuges.

MOGA represents more than 500 licensed outfitters and guides across Montana. Our members operate throughout the state, including in and around the CMR and UL Bend, and have a long history of supporting science-based wildlife management that aligns federal and state regulations wherever possible.

The proposed change is straightforward. Hound hunting of mountain lions is a legal, well-established, and widely practiced method on U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, state, and private lands throughout Montana. The current restriction on the CMR and UL Bend refuges is inconsistent with those surrounding lands and creates unnecessary regulatory confusion for hunters and outfitters operating in the region.

Aligning refuge regulations with existing state regulations removes an arbitrary barrier, simplifies the regulatory landscape, and expands hunting opportunity in a responsible and measured way. The proposed December 1 through February 1 season appropriately accounts for wintering ungulates on refuge lands while still providing meaningful access for lion hunters.

MOGA supports Alternative A and encourages the commission to adopt these changes beginning with the 2027 license year.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Israel

Executive Director

Montana Outfitters & Guides Association

director@mogamt.org | www.montanaoutfitters.org

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 5:07:03 PM
Time Spent: 00:04:21
IP Address: 38.92.160.65

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name: Zack Boughton
City/Town: Bozeman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: zackboughton@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

I think we need to be hunting not just lions but all predators on CMR land. The mule deer and sheep sure as hell need the help.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 7:02:48 PM
Last Modified: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 7:30:50 PM
Time Spent: 00:28:01
IP Address: 108.174.113.7

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	Brett Landwehr
City/Town:	Jordan
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	landwehroudfitters@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

I have hunted on the CMR since 1980. Started guiding on the CMR in 1987 and have been an outfitter on the CMR since 2009. In the early years the occasional Lion track was seen on both the north side and south side of the lake. Over the last several years the number of tracks and personal sightings have gone through the roof! In the Fall of 2023 I personally saw seven different lions while afield. From 410 to 700. I have videos of them. Almost every drainage in 700 has lion sign. Last fall, 2025, I saw one lion from a distance hunting deer. The number of mule deer around the lake is at an all time low in my opinion. The number of predators is unbelievably high! Too many coyotes and too many mountain lions! I know how many animals the lions kill per year...and I know the only way to effectively control the mountain lion numbers are with the use of hounds. I strongly recommend this proposal. The number of lions is ridiculous! I'm available for any other insight on the CMR. I believe I have more time afield in the area than most people over the last 45 years. Thank you, Brett Landwehr

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#4

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 7:59:29 PM
Time Spent: 00:05:47
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name: Chris J. Francis
City/Town: Gallatin Gateway
State/Province: MT
Email Address: cjf@c-francis.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

This is a complete, "no brainer," for MDFW&P! Expands hunting opportunities, helps embattled Bighorn populations and brings these areas into alignment with surrounding BLM, State and US Forest Service lands. This should have been done years ago!!

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#5

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 28, 2026 12:10:10 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 28, 2026 12:28:05 AM
Time Spent: 00:17:54
IP Address: 72.175.129.150

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name: **Scott Vollmer**
City/Town: **Gallatin Gateway**
State/Province: **MT**
Email Address: **vollmerscott@yahoo.com**

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

Madam Chair and Commissioners,

I am writing to you in strong support of Alternative A, adopting a mountain lion hunting season with hounds in the CMR and UL Bend Refuges beginning in the 2027 hunting season. This alternative makes sense as it directly aligns with adjacent LMU's and provides consistency in the season structure throughout the region. More importantly, this new season opportunity allows the use of mountain lion hunting in an area that can provide much needed relief to struggling mule deer and sheep populations in the CMR and UL Bend. Targeted hound hunting has a proven track record to provide a balance in both predator and prey populations and is the most effective management tool available for this sensitive area. Getting the approval of the USFWS to collaboratively open up this new season is a once in a lifetime opportunity that cannot be wasted. I urge a vote for Alternative A and a new season that can be enjoyed by Montana houndsmen. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Best,

Scott Vollmer
MOGA President-Elect

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#6

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Started: Thursday, May 28, 2026 7:47:11 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 28, 2026 7:54:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:29
IP Address: 63.153.12.149

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name: Rob Arnaud
City/Town: Gallatin Gateway
State/Province: MT
Email Address: rob9overbar@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

There is no doubt that the predator prey relationship is profound in managing for wildlife species. Science, as well as common sense, has proven that large carnivores impact prey species populations such as mule deer and bighorn sheep. Mountain lion populations are not imperiled and lions occur in nearly every county in MT. Bighorn sheep populations are in a downward spiral across most of MT....15 years ago we had close to 7,000 sheep and today we have 5,000 (my estimates from memory here). Now is the time that sheep need to be recovered and recovery means managing lions. I applaud the effort to hunt mtn lions in the CMR and encourage all commissioners to vote that way.
Thank you for your consideration,
Rob Arnaud

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#7

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, May 28, 2026 10:58:30 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, May 28, 2026 11:01:29 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:58
IP Address: 69.145.176.139

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name: Ryan Chapin
City/Town: Missoula
State/Province: MT
Email Address: ryanpruittchapin@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

As a passionate Montana hunter and someone who has hunting on the CMR and UL extensively, I support the expansion of hound hunting for lion in the area. Thanks you for taking these comments into account. Ryan

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#8

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Started: Friday, May 29, 2026 3:11:14 PM
Last Modified: Friday, May 29, 2026 3:19:31 PM
Time Spent: 00:08:17
IP Address: 146.75.175.62

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	Jeff Darrah
City/Town:	Stevensville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jdarrah21@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife supports this proposal to allow lion hunting with hounds on the CMR refuge. Hunters afield are seeing many lions in these districts. To maintain a healthy predator/prey relationship. There have been concerns with big horn sheep and mule deer populations in this area. The number of lions taken can be controlled with quota numbers that are appropriate. Please consider this proposal as a positive step.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#9

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Started: Saturday, May 30, 2026 6:33:52 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, May 30, 2026 8:22:14 AM
Time Spent: 01:48:21
IP Address: 72.255.129.210

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name: BUD MARTIN
City/Town: zortman
State/Province: MT
Email Address: redbone_outfitting@msn.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

I am in favor of opening it up and adding additional quotas for the CMR and UL bend. Lions are the one biggest problem with our mule deer in that area.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#10

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Sunday, May 31, 2026 8:46:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:11:47
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	MIKE H GETMAN
City/Town:	Lewistown
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	mhg4556@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

I support the Proposed Motion for the Fish and Wildlife Commission to approve annual mountain lion hound hunting on the CMR and ULB refuges starting Dec. 1, 2027, until the appropriate harvest quotas are filled or Feb. 1, 2028 (whichever comes first). If the USFWS does not adopt these changes starting with the 2027 license year, the hound hunting regulations for Montana would revert to the current regulation language, ending on April 14. This would help to reduce lion predation on mule deer which are struggling.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#11

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 01, 2026 7:12:43 AM
Last Modified: Monday, June 01, 2026 7:15:02 AM
Time Spent: 00:02:18
IP Address: 75.166.36.196

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	Peter C Guynn
City/Town:	Denver
State/Province:	CO
Email Address:	Peter.guynn51@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

Dear Commissioners,

Please moderate this relentless effort against the balance and health of our states diverse wildlife. Predator " control" is nothing but an effort to sell more hunting for ungulates. This only ruins their health as predators like the mountain lion take out the weak and build up the strong. Our ungulste population is being managed like a herd of cows. The majority of Montanans are against this. Please consider those who relish the presence of all our diverse wildlife.

Peter C Guynn
1868. Buerger Rd
Condon

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#12

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Monday, June 01, 2026 10:46:30 AM
Last Modified: Monday, June 01, 2026 10:49:43 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:13
IP Address: 216.14.231.10

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	Kevin Farron
City/Town:	Missuola
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	kevin@mtwf.org

Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

On behalf of the Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF), Montana's oldest and largest hunter and angler-based conservation group, please accept these comments regarding the proposed mountain lion regulation change on the CMR and UL Bend National Wildlife Refuges.

Elk collaring data shows that the CMR is a valuable and highly utilized wintering range. This is exactly where we want the elk to be. Opening these wildlife refuges to hunting with hounds from Dec 1st til Feb 1st will increase the amount of motorized use and human traffic, not to mention barking dogs, all of which will disperse elk herds onto neighboring lands where varying levels of tolerance exist.

Due to the noted "potential to impact wintering ungulates," this proposal to run dogs is only half as long as the regular hunting-with-hounds season, an accommodation we appreciate. However, this is still the time of year where ungulates are most vulnerable to stress, and after two months of hounds running through winter range, the concerns around added winter big game mortality and/or elk dispersing to neighboring ranches both remain valid, even with a shortened hound season.

While MWF supports management of mountain lions and the preservation of ethical hound hunting, and we certainly appreciate and support added opportunities and consistencies in regulations when and where appropriate, we also acknowledge that our wildlife refuge system possesses different objectives than other public and private lands. And we know that this recommendation is being pushed primarily by commercial interests looking for more opportunities to charge for guided hunts. Therefore, we don't necessarily agree that the CMR and ULB Wildlife Refuges are appropriate areas to allow hound hunting for mountain lions.

That said, knowing that the USFWS will likely be supporting this change and offering the same in their regulations, we reluctantly agree with Alternative A, that the commission should adopt these changes beginning with the 2027 license year, facilitating both agencies communicating the same lion hound hunting opportunities on refuge lands (assuming the USFWS process concludes with adoption as well.) As stated in the Alternative, if the USFWS does "not adopt these changes for the 2027 license year, the hound hunting regulations for Montana could be changed again prior to season start."

Finally, in light of this conversation, we strongly encourage FWP to establish more distinct lion districts with subquotas in Region 7 to prevent over-harvest (a possibility of 45 lions being harvested in the south side of the CMR alone). Or, even better, we suggest a CMR and UL Bend subquota in each lion hunting district occupied by these refuges.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#13

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Last Modified: Monday, June 01, 2026 11:50:44 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:06
IP Address: 174.221.157.99

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	Matthew Klumpp
City/Town:	Emigrant
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	walkeroutfitting@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

I support the proposed changes to allow mountain lion hunting with hounds in the CMR. This is a great regulatory tool for predator management in the area and will open up opportunity for lion hunters in the area. These changes will also match surrounding areas such as BLM, USFS, State and Private lands. I believe this is the right thing to do and thank you for taking my comment.....Matthew Klumpp Outfitter & Guide

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, June 01, 2026 1:06:18 PM
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	Marlene Hutchins
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	marleni.nardini@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

Lands deemed as a “refuge” should offer shelter, not expanded opportunities to chase, tree, and kill native predators. The public believes refuges should function as safe havens for wildlife.

There is no evidence of mountain lion overpopulation in these refuges. There is no clear scientific or conflict-based reason given for the proposal beyond limiting “potential impacts to wintering elk.”

Montana’s mountain lions are not private property. They are not commodities. They are not simply trophies, targets, or threats to be eliminated. They are part of Montana’s wild inheritance.

- Hound hunting does not belong on wildlife refuges.
- The proposal lacks a clear scientific justification.
- No proposed quota is provided.
- Allowing this could set a dangerous precedent for other refuges.
- Mountain lions should not be persecuted to benefit special interests.
- Refuge lands should provide actual refuge for wildlife.

Thank you for taking serious consideration of these issues.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#15

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Monday, June 01, 2026 9:04:37 PM
Time Spent: 00:01:48
IP Address: 74.244.108.54

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	Marc Cooke
City/Town:	Stevensville
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	marc@wolvesoftherockies.org

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

Please review attached comment.

Q3

Optional: Upload your comments

2026 June MtFWP Mountain lion comments CMR.pdf (198KB)

#16

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Wednesday, June 03, 2026 10:33:39 AM
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	Derek Fras
City/Town:	Bozeman
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	dlfras@proton.me

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

Please Stop Expanding the Killing of Mountain Lions in Montana

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commissioners,

I am writing to urge the Commission to reject any mountain lion quota structure that continues or expands unnecessary killing, and instead move Montana toward a more protective, science-based approach to mountain lion management.

Mountain lions are not disposable “opportunity.” They are native apex predators, family animals, and essential members of Montana's ecosystems. They help regulate prey behavior, contribute to ecological balance, and provide food for a wide web of other wildlife through their kills. Research in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem documented 39 bird and mammal scavenger species using puma kills, underscoring that mountain lions support biodiversity far beyond their own species.

FWP's own materials show reason for caution, not increased killing. In the Southwest Ecoregion, FWP states that all available evidence suggests mountain lion populations are declining at a regional scale, and that high quotas on a declining population could create severe consequences. FWP also acknowledges that high hunting mortality is largely additive, not simply replaced by reproduction or recruitment.

This is especially troubling because current management continues to treat killing as the default tool, even when science shows it can backfire. A 30-year study of cougars in British Columbia found that human hunting pressure was positively associated with increased cougar-human conflict, especially involving males. In other words, killing more cougars did not reliably make communities safer - it was associated with more conflict.

Heavy hunting can also destabilize mountain lion social structure. Research on hunted cougar populations has found that heavily hunted areas can experience larger male home ranges and greater overlap among males - signs of social disruption rather than stable management. Killing mature resident lions can open territories to younger, less experienced animals, which may increase movement, instability, and conflict risk.

FWP's Region 7 justification also raises serious red flags. The agency notes that direct population measures are not yet available in Region 7, that houndsmen are reporting significant population reduction, and that the population is likely lower than preferred for sustainable ecosystem health, resource protection, and opportunity. Those are not conditions under which Montana should continue business-as-usual killing.

I respectfully ask the Commission to:

Suspend or sharply reduce mountain lion killing quotas statewide until independent, transparent population estimates are available.

Set female quotas at zero in any region showing decline or uncertainty.

End quota decisions based primarily on hunting opportunity and instead prioritize ecological health, coexistence, and long-term population stability.

Require FWP to provide the public with clear data on population trends, age structure, female mortality, kitten dependency risk, conflict incidents, and the scientific rationale for any proposed killing.

Montana's mountain lions belong to all Montanans, not only to those who want to pursue and kill them. The science does not support aggressive killing as a path to safety, balance, or conservation. It supports restraint, protection of mature breeding animals, and management that recognizes mountain lions as essential native wildlife.

Please stop the unnecessary killing of mountain lions in Montana and adopt a genuinely science-based, conservation-first approach.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#17

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, June 04, 2026 11:11:23 AM
Time Spent: 00:03:52
IP Address: 184.167.33.154

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	marlene hutchins
City/Town:	missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	marleni.nardini@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

I am writing to ask the FWP Commission to put the approval of beaver translocation for 2026-2028 on hold until FWP provides the public with clear information on the purpose, terms and consequences of this project.

The public needs to know the following, to help make an informed decision:

- if and for how long trapping of beavers will be suspended,
- how far from the water source trapping of beaves might be suspended, and
- if trapping of all wild animals will be suspended, or only beavers. If the latter, and given the indiscriminate nature of trapping, how will beavers be protected from ongoing trapping of other wild animals in these three release areas.

Beaver relocation can and should be a meaningful step toward coexistence, watershed restoration, and climate resilience — but only if the animals being moved are actually protected. Without clear, enforceable trapping closures in release areas, this proposal risks becoming another example of wildlife being managed for the benefit of trappers rather than for ecosystems, public values, or the animals themselves.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this matter.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#18

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Thursday, June 04, 2026 9:51:24 PM
Time Spent: 10:19:50
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	Anja Heister
City/Town:	Missoula
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	loxodonta66@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

See our Footloose Montana comment attached.

Q3

Optional: Upload your comments

FWP proposal of hound hunting in CMR and ULB wildlife refuges_FM comment_6.4.26_.pdf (180.9KB)

#19

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Friday, June 05, 2026 8:53:24 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:50
IP Address: 66.171.21.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	Jack Billingsley
City/Town:	Glasgow
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	jbranch@nemont.net

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

I am commenting in support of allowing Hound Lion hunting on CMR and ULB. As a livestock operator bordering CMR we have experienced increasing Lion activity with suspected livestock losses. We also have seen a decline in Mule Deer population

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#20

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Last Modified: Saturday, June 06, 2026 8:34:50 AM
Time Spent: 00:25:15
IP Address: 205.207.148.82

Page 1

Q1

Contact information

Name:	Colleen Murphy
City/Town:	Helena
State/Province:	MT
Email Address:	loganlito1957@gmail.com

Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Regulations for CMR

I support alternative B option. Until there is adequate research and data about the Mountain Lion populations on the Federal Wildlife Refuges I can't see how allowing hunting is an appropriate action. I read that the Safari Club International supports allowing hunting but I am against making decisions for trophy hunting and not science. As far as public confusion, that seems a weak argument. I imagine that the hunting public encounters many different regulations that they are navigating.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments
