

#1

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1

Contact information

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Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Amendment #2 - BROOKE

At a time when we are finally getting a hand on the out of control lion populations it seems rather idiotic to go back to where we were several years ago. Regardless of what you hear from the "houndsmen" the fact is we killed 5 lions in 6 days from our lodge here in Zortman. That is without a doubt still to many lions on the landscape. Feel free to check our harvest. The fact that the houndsmen can't catch lions without snow don't mean there are none left.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#2

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information

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Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Amendment #2 - BROOKE

People who spend time on the ground, following tracks, reading snow, and witnessing what is happening to lions in real time are telling you that Montana's mountain lions are being overharvested. Please pay attention to their urgent responses.

- Montana's mountain lion quotas remain far too high.
- Lion hunters themselves are reporting serious population declines.
- Female quotas must be drastically reduced.
- Kittens and dependent young must be protected.
- Predator scapegoating is not science-based wildlife management.
- Montana's wildlife should not be managed for trophy hunting industry pressure.
- Mountain lions deserve ethical, science-based protection.

Thank you for taking serious consideration of these issues.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#3

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Page 1

Q1

Contact information

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Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Amendment #2 - BROOKE

Mountain Lion Amendment #2 - BROOKE

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

#4

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Page 1

Q1

Contact information

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Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Amendment #2 - BROOKE

As I read the proposed amendments and the public comments, I am wondering why the commission does not rescind the 2023 quota percentages as it appears members of the commission and members of the public have concerns about the unintended effects on the Mountain Lion population. Furthermore the following sentences from FWP response to this amendment contradict themselves in my mind. "Our data cannot dictate the "right" number of mountain lions to manage towards within the biological extremes of abundance. The department's methods can be used to scientifically achieve the social target selected by the commission." I support any reductions in Mountain Lion quotas until there is adequate data to have informed decisions.

Q3

Respondent skipped this question

Optional: Upload your comments

#5

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Page 1

Q1

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Q2

Please comment on Mountain Lion Amendment #2 - BROOKE

Please see attached comment.

Q3

Optional: Upload your comments

2026 June Brooke Amendment Mountain Lion.pdf (211.7KB)
