

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? Lower the cap. I have studied environmental biology intensely, nearly all wild cat populations are declining. Rat poisoning and car accidents are enough stresses for these majestic animals. Don't harvest wild cats. Especially mountain lions because they are a keystone species !

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? You guys probably won't listen to me. This world is already crumbling down, but please don't harvest these beautiful big cats. Mountain lions are a keystone species, meaning they keep their entire ecosystem in order. You bag too many of these cats and you'll run into a whole plethora of problems. Atleast I tried...

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? THEY ARE OVER REACHING AND WILL END UP HARMING THE NATURAL BALANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENTS THEY TARGETING IN AREAS THAT ARE ALREADY UNDER THE STRAIN OF GLOBAL WARMING

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? THEY ARE OVER REACHING AND WILL END UP HARMING THE NATURAL BALANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENTS THEY TARGETING IN AREAS THAT ARE ALREADY UNDER THE STRAIN OF GLOBAL WARMING

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 19, 2020 2:42 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? I do not support the hunting of non-food animals, specifically including bobcats, in the state of Utah. Livestock owners should be encouraged to use dogs or llamas to deter the predation of their flock.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I do not support the hunting of non-food animals, specifically including cougars, in the state of Utah. Livestock owners should be encouraged to use dogs, shepherds, or llamas to deter the predation of their flock.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 12:22 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? No more predators need to die!! This is barbaric

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Leave the predators alone! I am not for ranching

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 12:18 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? Bobcats and Cougars should not be hunted at all! We live in their home. We need to have a conversation about educating hunters. These vital predators need our protection and respect. Unless it's for food, hunting should be banned as it harms the ecosystem

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 12:43 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:** I oppose the proposals

**Do you have any additional comments
about these proposals?** PLEASE PROTECT ALL ANIMALS! NO MORE SENSELESS CRUELTY!
NO MORE HUNTING AND KILLING BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS!! HUNTING
IS CRUEL AND IGNORANT! PLEASE PROTECT ALL WILDLIFE!!

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Debloois:** I oppose the proposals

**Do you have any additional comments
about the recommendations?** PLEASE PROTECT ALL ANIMALS! NO MORE SENSELESS MURDER
OF BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS!!

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 12:57 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 1:00 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**Do you have any additional comments
about the recommendations?** I'm all for up the tag numbers for predators

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 3:35 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:** I am neutral on the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Debloois:** I support the proposals

**Do you have any additional comments
about the recommendations?** Make Mule Deer herds great again!! Allow more tags for Cougar.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 3:38 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I support a substantial increase in the availability of mountain lion tags. With limited time on the mountain even I have had encounter with a big lion. Most people never see one but lion human encounters are increasing. Save our deer herd and kill a lion.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 4:12 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:

I am neutral on the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals?

Why not allow the hunters to choose if they see a predator they can harvest the predator in place of there big game tag

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois:

I am neutral on the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

Why not allow the hunters to choose if they see a predator they can harvest the predator in place of there big game tag

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 5:34 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? We need to get as many as these predators out of the state as possible.
The deer herds are suffering

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? We need to get as many as these predators out of the state as possible.
The deer herds are suffering

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 5:56 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? Try to relocate the cougars. I agree with the reduction of allowed bobcat kills.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Relocate the cougars. I agree with the reduction of bobcat kills.

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Legislators who are not scientists should not be making rules about killing wildlife. These new rules the legislators have implemented are purely politically based! Giving more opportunities for hunters to kill more wildlife! You don't even know how many lions you have in your state and it has been scientifically proven that in some areas it's cattle that are causing the decline in mule deer! This is shameful management and you all should be ashamed of yourselves!

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:

I am neutral on the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois:

I support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

I would just like to suggest that Utah take a look at how Wyoming and Nevada manages there cougars and perhaps mirror there system with a few adjustments for CWMU areas. If the cats tags were to me moved to Over the counter i believe more revenue would be brought to the table resulting in funding even more deer projects. Many of us sportsman would love to add a cougar to our list of tags and perhaps harvest one but to wait as long as some needs to wait to draw a tag I and others I know have just opted to buy and OTC tag from our neighboring states. Also the harvest quota is always met yearly, because they have the hotline that is called before you hunt. Even a simple text message sent to all with a cougar tag would help everyone know when quota is met. I have seen and heard the struggle from CWMU owners that cats are wiping out here game numbers. I feel they need help also coming up with a plan to help there cougars get under control. I do feel the increase of tags being proposed is going in the right direction. Problem I see still though is if the tags are not filled the population still increases and the plan fails because the harvest quota is not met.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 21, 2020 12:19 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? The UWGA does not want to see bobcat permit numbers to decrease and we do not want to see the season shortened.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? The Utah Wool Growers Association is supporting the DWR's recommendations for increasing cougar tags and implementing 27 additional permits in hunting units that aren't implementing predator management plans. The UWGA would fully support a statewide unlimited quota. Our producers spend 365 days a year on the range observing nature and what we have seen is the rapid increase in predators, especially cougars, and the decline of the deer population. We find that wildlife and agriculture mirror each other. When the sheep move on, the deer experience heavy predation. Frankly, it is our opinion that there should be unlimited tags and unlimited quota until we get the predators in check. The UWGA also supports the DWR recommendation to increase the harvest limit from one to two cougars between July 1 and June 30, 2021.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 21, 2020 2:27 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? We here at Mule Deer Foundation, UT fully support the Divisions proposal on cougar recommendations.
Jeremy Anderson, Regional Director MDF, UT

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I am neutral on the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? As a avid Houndsmen who specifically hunts Mountain Lion I STRONGLY oppose the below listed proposals for management of lions in Utah. Utah Mountain Lion numbers are on the decline and as you well know it's getting harder and harder to find a mature Tom to pursue and or harvest.

- I oppose the 2 lion tags per hunter.
 - I support converting all Harvest Objective units to split units
 - I oppose the elimination of all Limited Entry units
-

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 21, 2020 7:45 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 22, 2020 9:03 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

I am a graduate student at Utah State University studying Wildlife Management and Ecology. I care deeply about the sustainability and health of Utah's wildlife populations and ecosystems, and I am writing today to express my opposition to the proposed cougar 2020-2021 cougar recommendations.

Due to Utah Code 23-16-10, the predator management policies newly enacted on many cougar hunt units are out of line with the previously established Cougar Management Plan, now allowing for increased and unlimited cougar harvest from these units. However, the aforementioned Cougar Management Plan directs for decreased or maintained harvest quotas in many of these targeted units, following the two well-established management targets (<40% females in the harvest and >15% of >5yrs in the harvest.) The impacts of this increased and aggressive harvest will likely be damaging to cougar populations statewide, and may have unexpected population repercussions, especially in units where the PMPs are in direct conflict with the previous CMP targets. Attempting to quickly and drastically reduce cougar densities not only impacts the health of the population, it also reduces the opportunity for future sustainable and judicious hunting opportunities for the public.

1) Therefore, I oppose the proposal to Utah Administrative Rule R657-10 to change the season bag limit from one cougar per person to two cougars per person. This change would encourage increased pursuit and harvest in many units which are already heavily hunted, such as the Book Cliffs, Cache, Central Mountains (both Nebo and Northwest), Nine Mile, and Ogden units. These units will already be directly impacted by the new unlimited harvest allowance of the predator management policy. These, and many other units, have often met or exceeded their harvest objective goals in prior years. Thus, increasing the per-person limit to two cougars is an unnecessary and inappropriate method to achieve cougar management goals. In combination with the drastic changes already set in place by the new Predator Management Policy, increasing the season bag limit to 2 cougars per person will negatively impact social structure and stability of local populations that already experience heavy hunting and pursuit pressure. Instead of reducing cougar density as intended, heavy hunting pressure has been shown in previous studies to increase cougar immigration and recruitment in the local populations, shift population structure to younger animals (which are more likely to cause human-wildlife conflict), and allow for higher densities of individuals with smaller home ranges, thus completely failing to obtain the goal of reducing overall cougar densities (Robinson et al. 2008). Additionally, UDWR currently lacks sufficient data on any of these hunt units to support the claim that cougar populations are limiting deer abundance, and thus lacks the proper motivation to support these aggressive measures to reduce cougar density. Until UDWR has collected sufficient data to determine cougar demographic parameters and source-sink patterns in local populations, aggressive harvest is unwarranted and will likely trigger unexpected consequences to population structure and stability. Thus, the two-cougar bag limit should be rejected.

2) As a Wildlife and Ecology graduate student at USU, I understand the

importance of capturing and maintaining a viable sample of study individuals from which to collect data to address research objectives. I am aware of the ongoing Utah Cougar Study being conducted by USU, UDWR, and USDA, which involves collaring and monitoring mountain lions across the state. Regarding R657-10-23 subsection 4, I request that the taking of GPS- or radio-collared cougars from any unit currently in the USU-UDWR Cougar Ecology study be prohibited by law and be prosecutable as a wildlife violation. As a graduate student myself, I understand firsthand the time, cost, and energy involved in capturing animals and collecting sufficient research data, and I believe that UDWR's failure to protect these study animals from harvest during the ongoing capture effort is a waste of time and public resources. If the UDWR is devoting state funding to support a large-scale research study for any managed game species, it should mandate that the animals involved in said study will be protected from take while the capture and monitoring efforts are ongoing. Thus, I encourage this RAC to change the wording in subsection 4 of R657-10-23 to prohibit by law the take of any GPS- or radio-collared cougar in the following cougar units: Cache; Ogden; Morgan-South Rich; Central Mountains-Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, and Southeast; Book Cliffs, East; and Book Cliffs, Rattlesnake Canyon/Nine Mile, South. This change is necessary to ensure that sufficient high-quality data can be collected for addressing the research goals that UDWR and USU have agreed upon.

3) I oppose the removal of the wording "or any cougar accompanied by an adult" from subsection 3 of R657-10-23. I propose that the wording be instead changed to "or any kitten or subadult cougar accompanied by an adult". This subsection of the cougar harvest rule is intended to protect both adult females with dependent young and dependent young themselves from harvest. However, with this line removed, the rule would only protect young kittens with spots and adult females with spotted young. Thus, it would fail to protect larger kittens, between 6-12 months, which are still dependent on their mother for food but have already lost their markings. In the Cougar Guidebook, UDWR defines a kitten as "a cougar less than one year of age, or a cougar accompanied by an adult." Therefore, this line should be modified and retained within the written rule to extend the protection to "large" kittens between 6-12 months of age, which are still wholly dependent on their mother. Cougar age identification between juveniles and adults can easily be incorporated into the provided Cougar Orientation Course so hunters can confidently determine if a treed cougar is a kitten and thus protected from harvest.

4) Finally, I am pleased and proud to live in a state with amazing natural resources and a historically powerful conservation ethic. Like many people in Utah, my family has lived in the West for generations. I do not oppose hunting on principle; I support responsible harvest, ethical sportsmanship, and science-based wildlife management. I am disappointed to see those things I value are not represented in the new predator management policy.

Thank you for considering these requests and comments during future relevant RAC and Wildlife Board meetings.

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:

I am neutral on the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals?

In general, I support the proposals. However, I would like to see overall bobcat quotas significantly reduced.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois:

I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

As a Utah resident and wildlife stakeholder, I am vehemently opposed by the proposals put forth by the Division. They are reminiscent of the days when there was a bounty on our cougars and they were treated as vermin. This is not ethical hunting, nor is it supported by science.

I am asking that the RAC members oppose specifically the increase of 27 permits in non-predator management plan units. I would also like hunter allowance to be restricted to one cougar per hunter rather than the two cat per hunter limit recommended by the DWR. I also ask that predator management plan units have quotas rather than being unlimited. Lastly, I would like to support Mr. Debloois' request that hunters not be permitted to kill collared cougars.

I would like to note that both the current and recommended quotas, while in line with Utah's Cougar Management Plan, are not supported by current research and science and often fail to achieve the desired management outcomes. For example, current research is finding that overhunting cougars, as we are doing in Utah, will likely lead to an increase in conflicts with cougars, people, and domestic animals. Additionally, current research does not support killing cougars to boost game species like mule deer. Instead, it is finding that overhunting may likely be having the opposite effect, instead harming our deer numbers.

Last but not least, Utah residents have been telling the DWR for years that they do not want to see quotas increased. It's time to listen to the desires of the public.

Thank you.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 22, 2020 10:00 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:** I oppose the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Debloois:** I oppose the proposals

**Do you have any additional comments
about the recommendations?** I would like to know if any of the board or rac members think this is the real
solution and if so why increase deer tag.
Why is the DWR constantly targeting the sport of hound hunting it has been
around for years.

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:

I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals?

You obviously think what you're recommending is right so you won't listen to Biologists, Scientists and the MILLIONS of us who are sane decent caring people who care about seeing Wildlife, NOT KILLING THEM FOR FUN!!

I own land near St. George but due to your horrendous policies toward wildlife I and others are considering donating it to the HUMANE SOCIETY or even PETA!!

Many are getting to the level of actual hate for Utah due to your VIOLENT behavior.

You really think God wants us to kill wildlife for fun?

It's totally wrong to kill animals for fun! You must know by now that many of these mass and school shooters were also sport hunters! That Las Vegas mass Murderer was a sports hunter, and many others also.

When you think it's fun to kill you need to see a psychiatrist ASAP!

Animals suffer, raise families, have a heart and blood like us and SHARE OVER 70 % SAME DNA AS YOU!!!
Humans are in the Animal Kingdom!!

Nature can take care of itself, leave Wildlife alone!!!

You think you are smarter than God?

Killing for fun is wrong and dangerous to a society so you must stop supporting this madness!! FACT: Sports hunters have something seriously wrong with them!

God respects Life, including animals.

Turn Utah into an area that doesn't hunt them but a place to view and enjoy them alive.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois:

I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

Excessive quotas and blatant mismanagement of our cougars will have cascading effects throughout the ecosystem, will likely increase conflicts with people and livestock, is not supported by peer-reviewed science, and disregards overwhelming public opinion that demands to see our wildlife properly managed for all who enjoy them.

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals?

I am a non-hunter who has a strong interest in the management of predator species in Utah. Bobcats are important not just to trappers and hunters, but to those of us who want to view them for pleasure and know they are thriving in our state. Therefore, I support reducing the number of permits available to individual trappers. I also support shortening the bobcat trapping season. I recommend taking even greater measures to protect this vulnerable species by further reducing the proposed limits for hunting and trapping. This would enable more residents and visitors to Utah to view and enjoy these animals, which is equally important to harvesting them. The hunting/trapping community places more pressure on and has a stronger voice with the DWR than people such as myself who are greater in number but are not as influential with the DWR. Our voices must be heard.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

This proposal is deeply flawed and does not take several factors into account. First, when big game populations run below management objectives and are reduced, this has a direct impact on the number of predators that can naturally survive, and the number of mountain lions will be lower as a result. This is a simple concept that should be familiar to any wildlife biologist. Therefore, rather than enacting proposals that further reduce the number of mountain lions through hunting, the exact opposite should be happening. The DWR should therefore take immediate action to significantly reduce or eliminate hunting permits for mountain lions to prevent this vulnerable population from becoming so low that their ability to recover is threatened and their genetic diversity becomes so limited that species bottle-necking occurs. Second, mountain lions are of significant importance to residents and visitors such as myself who are not hunters. People such as myself want to know that the Utah mountain lion population is abundant, healthy and genetically diverse, and that the DWR is not pandering to special interest groups such as big game hunters or mountain lion hunters. Our interests need to be more than just noted and disregarded. Our voices need to count, and the benefit of having mountain lions in Utah that are alive and visible must be a point of serious consideration when making these decisions. Do not increase the number of mountain lion hunting permits. Decrease or eliminate the number of permits to be in accordance with the science behind watershed management, reduced precipitation, how reductions in prey numbers are already adversely impacting predators, and that the state is mandated to maintain a truly healthy mountain lion population. The DWR currently favors hunters over non-hunters, and must achieve a more reasonable balance when making decisions regarding mountain lion management. Current decisions are dominated by the pressures of the hunting community, but proper management requires that all interest groups have an equal voice in the determination of these critical decisions.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 4, 2020 10:18 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? This is nothing more than an effort to appease trophy hunters. This will lead to broken populations and countless orphaned kittens who will die alone from starvation, predation or exposure once their mothers are killed by trophy hunters. Those who survive will grow up without having learned necessary hunting skills from their mothers, leading them to target easier prey to survive-including livestock. This insane proposal will decimate the cougar population in Utah. STOP APPEASING TROPHY HUNTERS AND DO YOUR JOB AND PROTECT WILDLIFE!!!!!!

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 4, 2020 10:44 am

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

This is little more than an extermination gambit!

The proposal will lead to broken populations and countless orphaned kittens who will die alone from starvation, predation or exposure once their mothers are killed by trophy hunters. Those who survive will grow up without having learned necessary hunting skills from their mothers, leading them to target easier prey to survive-including livestock.

The opposite approach, the protection of cougars from trophy hunting, will produce a much stronger outcome all around. Their populations will stabilize, and older cats who are more skilled at catching natural prey will thrive. They'll be more likely to avoid human communities, and less likely to be involved in conflicts with people, pets and livestock.

Please don't disregard the best available science to the wind simply to appease big game hunters and a few ranchers!

It is a myth that killing Utah's cougars will boost the state's populations of mule deer and bighorn sheep-two species highly targeted by big game hunters. This special interest faction tipped its hand with legislation passed into law earlier this year that requires the culling of native carnivores like cougars to boost big game populations.

The rationale for killing cougars and other native carnivores is fundamentally unsound, as extensive research demonstrates that North American deer and sheep do not benefit from increased trophy hunting of native carnivores like cougars. Killing these carnivores, who are vital to ensuring healthy ecosystems, does not address the main factors driving deer and sheep declines, such as weather and disease. In fact, cougars help keep herds healthier by removing sick individuals who may spread chronic wasting disease, now plaguing deer herds throughout the country, among other conditions. And with the likelihood of increased predation on livestock, this extreme lethal approach to cougar management will only harm the ranchers DWR says it wants to help.

DWR is attempting to manage deer and other big game species with an old playbook, one based on outdated and unrealistic population goals created decades ago when much of Utah's natural landscapes were untouched by human development. Utah's deer can no longer meet those historically high population goals, and DWR must develop sound and realistic population estimates to achieve healthy, stable population sizes suited to the size and expanse of the state's remaining wild habitat.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 4, 2020 11:03 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? Please do REDUCE the number of trapping permits for bobcats. Please DO NOT INCREASE the number of hunting permits for cougars. I am outraged that the

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Please reduce the number of permits for trapping bobcats and please shorten the season for taking bobcats. Please do not increase hunting permits for cougars or lengthen the season. Killing carnivores to save deer and sheep for objectives that pander to hunting interests is a perpetual cycle of disaster for our treasured wildlife in Utah. The real reasons for declining ungulate populations need to be addressed: overgrazing, climate change, and habitat loss. Carnivores/"predators" keep ungulate herds healthy (chronic wasting disease). Please reduce the number of hunting and trapping permits for bobcats and cougars.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 4, 2020 2:01 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I have been a yearly vacationer from the mid west due to your beautiful landscape and especially the glimpses of your native wild life. these proposals will dangerously deplete your wildlife resources,. 18% of the cougar population was killed by hunters in 2019 alone. that rate of kill is more than sufficient to maintain balance with predator. /prey . increasing the permitted kill of cougar will decimate them and allow for overpopulation, illness, etc in prey populations.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 4, 2020 3:51 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? You should NOT allow the killings of any bobcats in Utah.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? You should NOT allow the killings of any cougars in Utah.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 4, 2020 3:56 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 4, 2020 4:03 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 4, 2020 4:50 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:**

I am neutral on the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Debloois:**

I oppose the proposals

**Do you have any additional comments
about the recommendations?**

I think if you can't get enough animals harvested under the existing permit system, increase the number per permit a bit. No limits at all for an extended period of time seems like a very bad idea, even if the population is healthy now. Also, if the season is year round, how do you ensure you don't kill a female with cubs that would starve without her?

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? If someone is not killing an animal to feed his or her family, they should abstain from killing. No exceptions.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? No killing unless it is to feed the family. Prohibiting the killing of lactating females is useless, as hunters can't tell and don't care - and as demonstrated by year-round hunts, wildlife "managers" don't care either. Cougars are not allowed to eat deer, bighorn sheep, cows, or domestic sheep. Are the people who come up with these rules delusional or just really ignorant? Stop using the term "harvest," and call it what it is: killing. I'm very disappointed that Utah is treating the state like one big filthy game farm. What about hikers, campers, rock hounds, bird watchers, wildlife watchers, amateur archaeologists and historians? You are alienating us & giving us good reason to go elsewhere.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 4, 2020 5:44 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? These proposed changes hurt the bobcat population by enticing hunters to take an increased number of largest and the healthiest of the animals in the area.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 4, 2020 6:17 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? I support limiting bobcat and furbearer hunting even further.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Unlimited? Was kind of gross mismanagement policy is this? Perhaps it's time to resign and turn the reigns over to someone who understand the concept of conservation. Shame on you for letting ranchers and hunters own you and dictate your 'decision making.' What kind of scientific evidence are you basing these 'policies' on? I watched your video presentation and don't see any evidence to back these 'harvest targets.' Who's making up these numbers for you? Clearly you have no idea how to do your jobs.'

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 4, 2020 6:19 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? I support limiting bobcat and furbearer hunting even further.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Unlimited? Was kind of gross mismanagement policy is this? Perhaps it's time to resign and turn the reigns over to someone who understand the concept of conservation. Shame on you for letting ranchers and hunters own you and dictate your 'decision making.' What kind of scientific evidence are you basing these 'policies' on? I watched your video presentation and don't see any evidence to back these 'harvest targets.' Who's making up these numbers for you? Clearly you have no idea how to do your jobs.'

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 4, 2020 6:29 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? Hunting these animals to depopulated is ruining the ecosystem. All animals are needed to balance the environment. These animals should be protected not killed.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Killing 500 cougars last year is a travesty. These animals are important for the ecosystem. Killing them so there is more mule deer to hunt does not make sense. All you are doing is killing animals that have the right to survive. Deer populations die from food wasting disease and the weather more than predators.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 4, 2020 6:40 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? Do not KILL natural predators in favor of more hunting.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Do not KILL natural predators in favor of more hunting.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 4, 2020 6:52 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? These beautiful cats are worth way more alive, stop the wasteful destruction of wildlife!!

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? These big cats do not deserve to be murdered, they are Gods creatures, stop the destruction of wildlife, before all is gone!!

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 4, 2020 8:23 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I believe managing "big game" populations by expanding sport predator hunting is an inherently flawed concept. The predator/prey relationship evolved over millions of years and is one component of the vast array of interconnected systems that drive a healthy biome. Disrupting this evolutionary balance to serve the interests of an overly vocal minority is a mistake. I fear that at some point, these mistakes may compound and bring Utah's wild ecosystems to a point irreversible collapse.

Every ecosystem has certain species that are crucial to the survival of the other species in the system. These keystone species could be majestic predators or unassuming plants, but without them, the ecosystem may not survive. Utah's native apex predators serve a keystone role in Utah's dwindling wild spaces by being a balancing force for prey species populations, which in turn affects the quantity and quality of plants and animals further along the food web.

Moreover, these native predators support the overall health of Utah's large ungulates species ("big game") by being a fundamental aspect of the natural selection process. They exclusively prey on the older and weaker members of the herd, which allows the healthier and genetically stronger members to flourish. The practice of sport hunting targets the most genetically superior of Utah's large ungulates undermining the natural selection process and ironically makes our native predator's role even more vital to the long-term health of the herds.

I ask that you please oppose the expansion cougar hunting permits of any kind.

George Rogers, Cottonwood Heights, UT3044.640.8291

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? The rationale for killing cougars and other native carnivores is fundamentally unsound, as extensive research demonstrates that North American deer and sheep do not benefit from increased trophy hunting of native carnivores like cougars. Killing these carnivores, who are vital to ensuring healthy ecosystems, does not address the main factors driving deer and sheep declines, such as weather and disease. In fact, cougars help keep herds healthier by removing sick individuals who may spread chronic wasting disease, now plaguing deer herds throughout the country, among other conditions. And with the likelihood of increased predation on livestock, this extreme lethal approach to cougar management will only harm the ranchers DWR says it wants to help.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 9:25 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 9:28 am

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 9:54 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? Predators are necessary for the health of our ecosystem.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I ask that you please oppose the expansion of cougar hunting permits. Cougars and other native predators are vital to our ecosystem in the Mountain West. They prey on weaker, older large game, which helps the herd to remain healthy (and means that sport hunters have access to healthy game).
I hope that you take the time to consider the consequences of the expansion of predator hunting permits and rethink this decision.

Thank you for your time.

Ileana Anderson, Park City, UT

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 10:18 am

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 10:20 am

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Debloois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 10:34 am

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:** I oppose the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Debloois:** I oppose the proposals

**Do you have any additional comments
about the recommendations?** Really people?! The cougar is an icon in Utah and should NOT be hunted
just for the gratification of creeps!

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 10:41 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 10:43 am

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 11:09 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? I support the positive proposal for the bobcats.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I oppose the proposed regulations that would allow for hundred more cougars to be killed.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 11:23 am

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 11:27 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 11:31 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Cougars should be cherished, protected, and NEVER allowed to be hunted. They are an integral piece of Utah's wildlife and Identity.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 11:35 am

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Debloois:** I oppose the proposals

**Do you have any additional comments
about the recommendations?** killing hundreds of more cougars? for what purpose? This is a horrible
cougar population management

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 11:54 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Killing HUNDREDS of Cougars is not in their best interest!!!! Are you trying to eradicate them from Utah!! Don't kill off this beautiful animal, they have a place in the ecosystem!!!! Don't destroy this beautiful animal!!

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 12:06 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? I support the proposals because of a slightly lower bag limit and a shortened season.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I strongly oppose this outrageous proposal for cougars. This is an obvious effort to support a special interest group (trophy hunters) and does not concern wildlife management.

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? Please save these amazing animals. Remember that we are living in their land. We must learn how to live with the cougars. I believe that all hunting in Utah needs to be stopped. All of our wild animals living in their natural habitat must be saved. no trophy hunting should be allowed at all. All the animals are needed to keep the natural environment.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? We must learn to live with the cougars. No trophy hunting should be allowed. Remember we are living in their domain. I believe all hunting in Utah should be banned. Save all our wild animals. We must learn to coexist with all animals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 12:58 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 1:00 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 1:06 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Our magnificent Utah ecosystem needs predators. Studies show that they actually help to keep prey herds healthy by taking down the sick, elderly, and otherwise unwell members. Nature has reasons for the predator/prey relationships that exist and human intervention is the real cause for any imbalances. Our expansion results in loss of habitat and climate change, which harm ungulate populations much more than cougars do. A much better way for humans to intervene on behalf of all wildlife would be to protect them and the environments they naturally occupy so they can eat, live and die as nature intends. Instead we are behaving as direct competitors with predators for a population we are culling in many ways already, so we just end up decreasing another species. There's a better way and we know what it is. Let's give that a try Utah so there are many wonderful wild animals for future generations to sometimes glimpse and be in awe of.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 1:29 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 1:49 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 1:53 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 2:03 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Cougars should be managed according to science and toward preservation and balance, not according to the wishes of special interest trophy hunters.

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Although we're happy to see that the DWR's proposal contains some positive aspects for bobcats (such as a slightly lower bag limit and a shortened season), the proposal for cougars could result in hundreds more cougars being trophy hunted during the 2020 hunting season, throwing sound wildlife management to the wind.

If approved, Utah will be taking a step backwards in providing sound wildlife management. Utah needs to play its part in protecting the state's cougar population by ending trophy hunting.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 2:35 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? As a tax paying resident of Utah, I oppose the cougar plan. I don't know what "special interest" groups were used to come up with this plan, but obviously the average resident wasn't involved. Why is this plan so strict about practically obliterating our cougar population?

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 2:43 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

I am opposed to some of the changes, but not all of them. I understand many problems are serious from overpopulations. And I don't have all the answers but I want to leave some of my strong feelings/suggestions from my experience of my 26 years of very heavy involvement in woodsmanship and hunting in Utah. And not just deer, sheep, elk, goats, ect..... But 20 of these years has been behind dogs that are world renowned. And that comes from the hounds man mainly. They know the species more than 96% of the (hooper) Hunter population. They believe the less predators the better. But that ain't true, just as the coyote can largely reflect the rabbits so does the cat reflect our deer. And since my infatuation with the mule deer since the early to mid 90s, when I last and truly hunted for a nice mature male cat and failed. I believe it was around 93-94 when the tags increased in my home range of the cache. They killed 38 cats that year. Male, female and not kidding kittens with spots were killed. I bought a tag in the 98 season and hunted above and beyond what I would say most hunters would.. Following a set of dogs that were known to catch cat's in dirt. I reread My journal it was 28 hunting days not just days, but hunting inbetween cats we attempted to catch, none of which were males old enough to kill if a Hunter had a morall.

The 90s were filled with many world class deer and that ended following the cats. I'm not saying that was the cause, I remember 3 of those winters were harsh. The springs heavy with snow. And until 4 years ago the deer heard in the north suffered. These past few years I've seen a comparable amount and quality of deer from that decade. And that is likewise of the cats. Please listen to the old hounds man the cats and bears are their life and world.

Now my opion. I have not bought your point system for the last 14 years to be wasted along an increase of tags. and my hopes of a true quality trophy only to be shot down by a majority of biggame hunters that apply themselves for a month of the year and truly don't understand a species or the home owners that bought a home in wildlife habitat. Maybe the answer is not in cats but the tags given for deer and sheep considered? Is it money of the popular vote, quantity or quality looked for as well. I know for myself and many of my associates would gladly forfeit our lifetime deer tag for a chance at something of quality. Gladly I'm not the one to decide these things and you can't appease the masses of everyone completely. The hunting generation has changed and the majority is not quantity but quality. The progress in your herds is happening you are creating the deer numbers. I hate to see us step backwards instead of forward just to appease the unexperienced and let a species suffer like the cats. Please leave the controlled hunts alone. They are surrounded by the H. O.. An opportunity for some but not me. I live once and want the choice still. Thanks for allowing the comments and my thoughts towards your future choices.

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? I dont think hunting should be allowed period. I think your focus should be maintaining and gaining habitat for our wildlife. As Utah and the world populations keep exploding there is no where for wildlife to thrive. Even our rural areas are being overrun with recreation as populated areas trying to escape the madness. Why would you want to kill any of these beautiful animals anyhow? To hang on a wall? UGH!

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I have seen 3 cougars in the wild and they were absolutely spectacular! Why kill them? How about we quit bringing in homo sapiens to our state and get them out of the foothills. Lets preserve the beautiful state we use to have. quit killing our wildlife!!
Cant comment on the bottom one but I did stay at kent lake near that area....beautiful! and way to many OHV. The side by sides have got to go or at least the jack asses that fly around in them.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 3:58 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 4:23 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? I appreciate an support the concern expressed.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I worry that these proposals will decrease the healthy population of cougar populations in Utah.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 5:27 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I am neutral on the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 6:11 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? Why is it important to kill these wild animals? Let nature take care of nature instead of allowing people to harvest trophies. Quit killing innocent animals and especially Bobcats.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Why is it important to kill these wild animals? Let nature take care of nature instead of allowing people to harvest trophies. Quit killing innocent animals and especially Cougars..

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 6:20 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:

I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals?

Dear Board Members,

I am opposed to the use of traps and snares and the killing of our natural wildlife. It is an antiquated and cruel way for a living being to die as they struggle to free themselves and don't understand why they cannot move. They may die a long death by lack of food and water, by drowning or by being rendered helpless against another predator's attack. Animals feel pain and fear just as we do.

The demand for natural fur is decreasing. No one needs to wear an animal to keep warm except perhaps native peoples. Find the courage to eliminate the killing of fur bearing species in our state. The few who desperately hold onto this vestige of the past will find another, non-lethal way to make a living and species will self-regulate as they always have before we started to exploit them for financial gain.

Thank you,

Paul Zuckerman

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois:

I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

Dear Board Members,

I love our large predators. Not for something to entertain myself with by hunting them or harassing them but simply because they contribute to what makes wild places wild and their roles in keeping ecological systems in balance. They do not need to be managed. We were destroying far too many bears and cougars using data that your own biologists have raised questions about. Predators are hard to count and mothers with cubs even more difficult still.

And now it is proposed to allow almost unlimited killing so that more hunters can get their trophy. Our predators are being scapegoated as the reason for declining deer herds. They are not the problem. Chronic Wasting Disease, car conflicts, migration corridor interruption, loss of forage due to human encroachment and drought are too blame but difficult to admit to ourselves or to stop. Much easier to appease hunters, ranchers and make some money by taking lives of predators. I fear that human management is going to lead to the demise of bears and cougars in our state as it has done to the wolf. What a sad day that will be. I implore you to make the difficult decision to greatly reduce the permits in spite of what the legislature has mandated.

They are my animals also,

Paul Zuckerman

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals?

Dear Utah Wildlife Board,
You are designed to help humans protect wildlife and to learn to coexist. Killing cougars because you got a fat bribe is unfair to the cougar, to biological diversity that brings tourists to your State and you are void of human consciousness if you are even considering this. In other laws, killing wildlife or hurting animals is a FELONY NOW!
You should all be charged with felonies and should be kicked off the board!

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

This is wretched. See previous comment for full statement.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 9:14 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 5, 2020 10:05 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 6, 2020 7:19 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 6, 2020 10:48 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? Do not increase the hunt for cougars. Non hunters have rites too. There is no ethical reason to increase the trophy hunting. We do not approve of this increase. Paul and Hannah. Merola

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals?

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

If this proposal is approved, hundreds more Cougars will be killed during the 2020 hunting season, leading to broken populations and countless orphaned kittens who will die alone from starvation, predation or exposure once their mothers are killed by trophy hunters. Those who survive will grow up without having learned necessary hunting skills from their mothers, leading them to target easier prey to survive-including livestock.

The opposite approach, the protection of cougars from trophy hunting, will produce a much stronger outcome all around. Their populations will stabilize, and older cats who are more skilled at catching natural prey will thrive. They'll be more likely to avoid human communities, and less likely to be involved in conflicts with people, pets and livestock.

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? No trapping should be allowed! Trapping is a dangerous and unsportsmanlike act! It causes unnecessary trauma to wild animals being trapped and many accidents to humans and domestic livestock.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? No dogs should be allowed in any mammal hunt! It may be a tradition, but it is unsportsmanlike at best. Hunter orange should always be mandatory, to avoid, or at least significantly reduce hunting injuries. It should always be required of persons on foot, or mounted, when entering any hunting zone.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 6, 2020 7:07 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 6, 2020 7:25 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:** I oppose the proposals

**Do you have any additional comments
about these proposals?** I am appalled at the proposal to increase trophy hunting, a practice that is
both senseless an inhumane. Shame on this pandering to special
interests.

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Debloois:** I oppose the proposals

**Do you have any additional comments
about the recommendations?** I am opposed at the predator management plan to kill cougars, which is not
supported by the data and science of sheep & deer herd health and
management. There are also more humane ways to curb population,
through capture and sterilization.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 6, 2020 8:04 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 7, 2020 12:57 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? How about NOT catering to CERTAIN special interest groups and their MONEY\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ to enhance their bragging rights because they ARE nothing but WORTHLESS human beings otherwise. While you, Darren still have the authority to do so, use your voice to give them theirs and PUT A STOP to this and countless other specie proposals that endanger the livelihood of those individual populations, allowing idiots to kill DEFENSELESS CREATURES!

So DWR you have a choice go ahead and hate GOD and his creations then by all means continue your destruction of ALL that he's created! Not just the DEFENSELESS...

Or Darren, you can DO the right thing, Deny this sport killing from continued advancement. I hope that you will and just let me be the first to say, in advance, THANK YOU FOR DOING THE RIGHT THING!! These cat FAMILIES and their hierarchy would scream Thank You as well if they could.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 7, 2020 2:27 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Debloois:** I oppose the proposals

**Do you have any additional comments
about the recommendations?** this is a dangerous proposal.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 7, 2020 4:54 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I am neutral on the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Unlimited culling of cougars means that young cougars will not learn how to hunt properly and will go for easier prey, in turn bringing them closer to humans and pets. This will backfire unless you kill every cougar, which would also be horrible.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 7, 2020 5:12 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 7, 2020 6:35 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 7, 2020 8:47 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 8, 2020 3:33 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? Please do NOT allow the hunting of bobcats and other furbearing animals.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Please do NOT allow the hunting of cougars.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 8, 2020 11:55 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Killing 25% of the Utah Cougar population is too much, and now you want to double that number. Killing predators is not a sustainable way to manage mule deer and big horn sheep populations. Nature keeps its own balance. Heading down big cats with dogs and killing them is barbaric.

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals?

As a former zoological park veterinarian, I have kept up with the science of land management and wildlife management. It is crystal clear to me that your agency is headed in the wrong direction. Whether the legislature or your board are responsible for these decisions, I categorically condemn them and think very poorly of your state as a whole because of this. I lived in the state of Washington for the last 40 years. I remember the discussion about their cougar populations. I think moderation is in order. Find a compromise please.
Dr A.R.Williams

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

I repeat the statement written above against the bobcat hunting limits. but the cougar changes are ridiculous for any non hunter. by the way there are 4 times as many citizens who don't hunt than those that do. sooner or later the Utah citizens will no longer tolerate this abuse of power.
DrA.R.Williams

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I am neutral on the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? I think the total number of permits for the year should be reduced.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Cougars are an important part of the ecosystem. This proposal will harm the cougar population, as well as the ecosystem as a whole. Less cougars doesn't mean more deer and big game. Cougars help keep deer and sheep populations healthy. As well as having older animals teach younger ones how to better hunt, which allows them to better stay away from humans and livestock. These recommendations go against science and studies done.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 9, 2020 10:35 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? Our family is very much against these animals being killed. They're part of nature.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? People will go camping in the mountains. Great. We do. Use common sense so you don't draw the attention of wild animals to your campgrounds.
People need to obey signs when told to stay out of certain areas, etc. Too many don't follow safety precautions.

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? The science does not support the goals of a hunt. The board needs to get current with the research on how increasing sport hunting of lions and other predators actually increases the problems it seeks to address. Using sport hunting as a management tool is outdated, barbaric, and is not supported by research from all over the world. I know it must SEEM like it's a solution, but that is the primal, irrational brain doing the thinking. The board needs to bring higher order thinking to the table if it's going to do right by the people of Utah and our wildlife.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 10, 2020 3:46 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? Their population doesn't need to be managed by us (we should try managing our own population). They aren't hurting us.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Are you trying to get their numbers so low that you no longer have a viable population in Utah? This plan is the way to achieve that...it's far too many to kill. You have a beautiful state we enjoy visiting. Please properly care for the wildlife so they thrive too. We will enjoy Utah even more then!

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 10, 2020 6:13 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 11, 2020 3:21 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 12, 2020 10:52 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? I don't see the point in killing Bobcats in order to "increase big game population" that's a ridiculous reason

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Soon Cougars will be an extinct species at the rate you are proposing. I don't understand the point in order to "increase big game population" that's a ridiculous reason

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 15, 2020 11:04 am

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Debloois:** I oppose the proposals

**Do you have any additional comments
about the recommendations?** We know from events in the past that depleting areas of predators leads to
over population and starvation of deer and other prey animals.

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I am opposing the proposals made by the Wildlife Board, as I am strongly against trophy hunting of any species. I propose to alternatively protect cougars from trophy hunting. I do not see any benefit to killing more of the Utah cougar population, as it already at risk of destabilizing. I understand that this proposal is meant to increase population of game such as deer and sheep- but this is only to provide more opportunity for the game to be hunted by humans. I believe we should allow the ecosystem where cougars exist to naturally balance population of deer and sheep. According to the Humane Society of the United States, "cougars help keep herds healthier by removing sick individuals who may spread chronic wasting disease, now plaguing deer herds throughout the country". By allowing the cougar population to naturally stabilize in Utah's ecosystem, I believe they will be less motivated to move to human communities, and interact with their pets/livestock.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 19, 2020 10:43 pm

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? I feel like with the pelt prices taking a significant decrease from last year and with this trend likely to continue, the number of tags should remain at 5 per person. Lower pelt prices will correlate with a lower harvest, regardless of the amount of permits issued per individual. Thank you for your time.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 20, 2020 11:02 am

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? While I support the proposal to reduce hunting bobcats, I am generally opposed to the hunting of bobcats in Utah.

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

The following comments have also been submitted to commissioners by email with citations and references. Please reach out to me if you have any questions whatsoever.

Dear Chairman Bateman, Director Fowlks and Members of the Wildlife Board:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our supporters in Utah, we are writing to express our strong opposition to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources ("DWR") recommendations for the 2020-2021 cougar hunting season ("Recommendations"). DWR's Recommendations and Predator Management Plans ("PMPs") are not sustainable for Utah's rare and iconic cougar populations, as decades of research conducted in Utah and around the country shows.

DWR does not have a firm grasp on Utah's cougar population size, densities, and demographics because the agency heavily relies on anecdotal data, such as hunter surveys, which researchers note is largely inadequate to inform best management practices and sustainable quotas. Cougar population density is largely determined by the availability of prey and territoriality, among other limiting factors. As such, recreational hunting is wholly unnecessary for keeping their populations in check. Beyond unnecessary recreational hunting, Utah's cougars face a multitude of other threats, including loss of habitat and climate change. Despite these concerns and uncertainties, hunters in Utah still kill hundreds of cougars every year. Now DWR plans to allow essentially year-round, unlimited hunting of cougars throughout the majority of the state through the implementation of 25 new PMPs, and an increased bag limit of two cougars per hunter, without regard for the detrimental impacts this killing will have on cougar populations and other wildlife.

It is axiomatic that administrative agencies only create rules and regulations that conform to their authorizing statute. See, e.g. *Lockheed Aircraft Corp. v. State Tax Comm'n*, 566 P.2d 1249, 1251 (Utah 1977). Here, the Utah Code directs DWR to "determine the facts relevant to the wildlife resources of this state" and, on the basis of those facts, mandates the Wildlife Board to "establish the policies best designed to accomplish the purposes" of "the preservation, protection, conservation, perpetuation, introduction, and management of wildlife." Utah Code § 24-14-3(2)(a). In carrying out this dictate, the legislature directed the Board to "seek to maintain wildlife on a sustainable basis." *Id.* § 24-14-3(2)(b).

And, like all Utah agencies, DWR may not establish rules that are "not supported by substantial evidence." *Id.* § 63G-3-602(4)(a)(ii). Furthermore, recently passed legislation (H.B. 125) directs DWR to reduce predation on big game species (e.g. mule deer and bighorn sheep) when a) the population is under the established herd size objective for a management unit and b) DWR determines that predators (e.g., cougars) are significantly contributing to the population not reaching their objective. Taken together,

the statutory scheme authorizing this rulemaking requires fact-driven, scientific management that seeks to sustainably maintain wildlife populations.

Yet, none of the documents provided to the Commission or the public in support of the PMPs or the proposed Recommendations demonstrate, or provide substantial evidence, that predation is a significant limiting factor on big game herd size. Moreover, Utah's big game herd size objectives are extremely outdated and do not reflect sustainable herd sizes given Utah's human population growth, as well as other primary limiting factors such as drought and other weather factors that are likely to increase as a result of climate change. Rather than allowing the essentially unlimited killing of cougars, DWR must protect native carnivores and re-evaluate Utah's big game herd size objectives, as current objectives are likely no longer realistic given Utah's current and future landscape.

The extreme expansion of cougar hunting proposed by DWR's Recommendations and PMPs is antithetical to Utah's wildlife statutes. As proposed, this high level of hunting runs afoul of DWR's legislative mandate to manage for sustainability. The law requires that management of Utah's cougar population and recreational hunting of these native carnivores be informed by the best available science rather than political motivations. Because of this legislative violation and for the reasons that follow, the Wildlife Board must prohibit DWR from implementing the 25 new PMPs and reject DWR's Recommendations to expand recreational hunting of cougars in Utah.

- 1) The Recommendations and PMPs authorize hunting levels upon cougars that exceed what experts consider a sustainable offtake rate, threatening their stability and long-term survival. While we do not support a recreational hunt on cougars, DWR must ensure that any permits and quotas not exceed scientifically valid, sustainable rates if the agency is determined to permit a hunt.
- 2) Research shows that killing cougars to protect big game species is typically ineffective and may expose larger numbers of herd animals to disease. Moreover, recreational hunting can result in increased predation on animals with smaller body mass, such as deer.
- 3) Heavy killing of cougars can increase conflicts with humans and livestock and is not a long-term solution for reducing conflicts. DWR's current cougar management strategy, which allows for alarmingly high levels of killing, may likely lead to increased livestock losses from cougars.
- 4) Killing cougars harms their family groups including dependent kittens and their mothers. Research shows that cougars are far more social than previously believed and hunting them causes social chaos, which has human ramifications. It also hinders the ecological benefits they provide to a wide range of other wildlife species.

The following discussion bolsters the preceding justifications:

I. Hunting cougars does not boost prey populations for the long-term but it could exacerbate ungulate diseases and increase predation on mule deer

The best available science demonstrates that increased hunting of cougars to boost ungulate populations is unlikely to produce positive results over the long-term. Numerous studies demonstrate that predator removal actions "generally had no effect" in the long term on ungulate populations. Because ecological systems are complex, heavily persecuting cougars will fail to address the underlying malnutrition problems that deer face. If Utah wants to grow its ungulate population, then DWR must foster survival of adult female mule deer to stem declines; and it must increase nutritional conditions for mule deer as these factors are the most important for mule deer survival.

Additionally, research shows that recreational hunting, or trophy hunting, of cougars typically results in the killing of the largest male cougars and can therefore lead to increased predation on big game species such as deer and bighorn sheep. In short, the older the cougar, the larger the prey they specialized upon. Older cougars, such as the large, territorial males typically sought after by hunters, tend to target larger prey, such as elk, while younger cougars tend to target smaller prey, such as mule deer. This research suggests that heavy killing of cougars, as is authorized in Utah, may exacerbate problems for big game populations such as mule deer and bighorn sheep by changing the age structure of the cougar population to predominantly younger cats that are more likely to hunt deer over elk.

Utah's mule deer would benefit from further research on the effects of human development, including from oil and gas, housing and road construction on mule deer habitat use and migration patterns. Residential and energy development has reduced all ungulates across the West, particularly on winter ranges. Research shows that a lack of high-quality winter range is limiting robust mule deer population growth in neighboring Colorado. Although the precise connections between energy development and population-level effects are still imperfectly understood, research has shown that oil and gas development affects mule deer habitat use and migration patterns by causing site avoidance, particularly in daytime, and creating "semi-permeable" barriers to migration routes. DWR should be focusing its efforts on research to evaluate the effects of human development on prey populations and ways to mitigate those effects rather than allowing increased hunting of cougars that will have little long-term benefit for increasing prey populations.

Additionally, cougars help maintain the health and viability of ungulate populations by preying on sick individuals, reducing the spread of disease such as chronic wasting disease (CWD) and brucellosis. For example, during a study in Rocky Mountain National Park, researchers found cougars preyed on mule deer infected with CWD. The study concluded that adult deer preyed upon by cougars were more likely to have CWD than deer shot by hunters. According to the study, "The subtle behaviour

changes in prion-infected deer may be better signals of vulnerability than body condition, and these cues may occur well before body condition noticeably declines." This suggests that cougars select for infected prey and may be more effective at culling animals with CWD than hunters who rely on more obvious signs of emaciation that occur in later stages of the disease. Moreover, the cougars consumed over 85 percent of carcasses, thereby removing a significant amount of the disease from the environment.

This ecosystem benefit is increasingly important as CWD infection continues to increase in prevalence and distribution in Utah and neighboring states. Hammering our state's cougar population through high levels of trophy hunting and predator control undermines one of our best defenses against the spread of this deadly disease. Cougars also reduce vehicle collisions with deer, saving drivers \$1.1 million in collision costs annually in South Dakota.

Persecuting cougars will not help bighorn sheep recruitment, either. It is clear from the literature that bighorn sheep populations are in decline in the U.S. because of unregulated market hunting, trophy hunting, disease from domestic sheep, resource competition by livestock, and loss of habitat. The Payette National Forest's Update to the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (January 2010), provides an excellent literature review on sheep die offs attributed to domestic livestock and recommend that wild and domestic sheep and goats be separated.

Sawyer and Lindzey (2002) surveyed over 60 peer-reviewed articles concerning predator-prey relationships involving bighorn sheep and cougars, concluding that while predator control is often politically expedient, it often does not address underlying environmental issues including habitat loss, loss of migration corridors, and inadequate nutrition. In total, the best available science suggests that persecuting cougar populations is not a solution toward enhancing bighorn sheep numbers. That is because cougar predation upon bighorn sheep is a learned behavior conducted by only a few individuals who may not repeat their behavior.

DWR can better plan for bighorn sheep management by selecting relocation sites for bighorn sheep that have little stalking cover. Escape terrain that contains cliffs, rocks, and foliage makes excellent ambush cover for a cougar and should be avoided. Also, the amount of cougar predation is generally greater on small-sized bighorn sheep populations (those that are under 100 individuals) than on other larger bighorn sheep populations. A host of authors reviewed by McKinney et al. (2006) and Ruth and Murphy (2010) recommend only limited cougar removals to benefit bighorn sheep populations.

II. Hunting increases human-cougar conflict and livestock depredation

Cougar-human conflict is higher in areas with cougar trophy hunting.

Trophy hunting and predator control of cougars results in increased conflicts because cougars' social structure are destabilized. A review of predator-removal studies found that the practice is "typically an ineffective and costly approach to conflicts between humans and predators" and, as a long-term strategy, will result in failure. Instead, the authors concluded, non-lethal alternatives to predator removal, coupled with coexistence (husbandry techniques) may resolve conflicts.

A Washington state study shows that as cougar complaints increased, wildlife officials lengthened seasons and increased quotas to respond to what they believed was a growing cougar population. However, the public's perception of an increasing population and greater number of livestock depredations was actually the result of a declining female and increasing male population. Heavy hunting of cougars skewed the ratio of young males in the population by causing compensatory immigration and emigration, even though it resulted in no net change in the population.

Study authors found that the sport hunting of cougars to reduce complaints and livestock depredations had the opposite effect. Killing cougars disrupts their social structure and increases both complaints and livestock depredations. Peebles et al. (2013) write:

. . . each additional cougar on the landscape increased the odds of a complaint of livestock depredation by about 5%. However, contrary to expectations, each additional cougar killed on the landscape increased the odds by about 50%, or an order of magnitude higher. By far, hunting of cougars had the greatest effects, but not as expected. Very heavy hunting (100% removal of resident adults in 1 year) increased the odds of complaints and depredations in year 2 by 150% to 340%.

Hunting disrupts cougars' sex-age structure and tilts a population to one that is comprised of younger males, who are more likely to engage in livestock depredations than animals in stable, older populations. In 2019, the Humane Society of the United States published a report on livestock losses from cougars using the U.S. Department of Agriculture's data. For Utah's cattle ranchers, 2015 data show that most cattle losses came from maladies (illnesses, birthing problems, weather and theft) with far fewer losses coming from native carnivores and domestic dogs together. Of the 21,000 unwanted cattle losses in Utah that year, 88 percent were from maladies (18,440 cattle), with only 1.15 percent coming from cougars (241 cattle), according to the USDA.

III. DWR must significantly reduce cougar hunting to maintain healthy populations in Utah

DWR's current and proposed hunting quotas, including unlimited hunting in many units, on Utah's cougar population are excessive and not in line with the best available science on cougar management. DWR's Cougar Plan, citing no studies, states: "Most cougar populations can sustain harvest

rates of 20% to 30% of the adult population depending on the age and sex composition of the harvest." Even so, DWR has authorized cougar hunting at levels that exceed this rate. DWR's PMPs and Recommendations will likely result in even further hunting of cougars, with increased bag limits and quotas, along with year-round, unlimited hunting in the majority of Utah. This management strategy places political priorities over sound science.

Furthermore, DWR continues to manage Utah's cougar population without a reliable population estimate. The agency still relies on an almost 20-year-old population estimate of 2,528 to 3,926 cougars of all ages to manage this iconic species. DWR must provide an updated, reliable cougar population estimate and manage the state's population sustainably, prioritizing the species' stability and persistence on the landscape. Until DWR can produce a reliable population estimate for the Utah's cougars, the agency must be extremely conservative in setting hunting quotas and permit numbers. Additionally, Beausoleil et al. (2013) suggest that wildlife managers use a density of 1.7 (2.0) cougars/100 km² if managers cannot afford to conduct a mark, recapture study.

If DWR is to continue allowing recreational hunting of cougars, the agency must set sustainable quotas based on reliable research and population estimates to prevent over-persecution. Several cougar studies conducted in Washington, Montana, and Idaho show that cougar populations can only sustain an offtake rate of no more than 14 percent per year. DWR's proposal to permit the killing of 40 percent or more of the Utah cougar population has no basis in sound science.

After conducting 17 years of research, Utah cougar biologists Wolfe et al. (2015) recommend that Utah manage cougars at a metapopulation level rather than at the single population level. They further add: "We recommend a conservative management approach be adopted to preclude potential over-harvest in future years." Instead of heeding its own experts, the DWR continues to permit additive levels of mortality to its cougar population. Wolfe et al. (2015) explain that on one of their long-term study sites, the Monroe Mountains, along with surrounding locations, were population sinks.

DWR already allows dangerously high levels of killing that could harm the long-term survival of Utah's cougar population. Despite its aridity and relatively low levels of plant production, Utah's cougar mortality through recreational hunting is alarmingly high, exceeding 500 cougars killed during both the 2018 and 2019 hunting seasons, and steadily increasing each year. These native carnivores are not resilient in the face of heavy-handed hunting regimes. Therefore, DWR must substantially reduce hunting quotas if cougars are to persist in Utah.

IV. DWR must reduce recreational hunting of cougars to sustainable levels protect their social communities and entire ecosystems, including other

wildlife

Recreational hunting is the greatest source of mortality for cougars throughout the majority of their range across the western and midwestern United States. The practice is often harmful to more than just the wild cats who are killed. Batavia et al. (2018) write: Compelling evidence shows that the animals hunted as trophies have sophisticated levels of "intelligence, emotion and sociality" which is "profoundly disrupted" by hunting. Unlimited and unsustainable hunting of cougars, such as that proposed in the PMPs and the Recommendations, is harmful to cougars and their social communities, as well as to the other wildlife that depend on these keystone species. For these reasons, DWR must reduce hunting of cougars to sustainable levels if the practice is to continue in Utah:

1.) Hunting of cougars must be limited to prevent excessive, unsustainable mortality: Cougars 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. Human persecution affects their social structure, and harms their persistence.

Research shows that recreational hunting results in additive mortality-hunters increase the total mortality to levels that far exceed what would occur in nature. In fact, the effect of human persecution is "super additive," meaning that hunting cougars has a multiplier effect on total mortality due to breeder loss, social disruption and its indirect effects including increased infanticide and decreased recruitment of their young. When hunters remove the stable adult cougars from a population, it encourages subadult males to immigrate, leading to greater aggression between cats and mortalities to adult females and subsequent infanticide.

2.) The Recommendations and PMPs are harmful to cougar communities: A study on cougars in Wyoming shows that cougars are quite social animals and live in "communities," with females sharing kills with other females, their kittens and even with the territorial males. In return for these meals, the adult males protect the females and their kittens from incoming, competing males. Disrupting these communities leads to deadly intraspecific strife, including infanticide on the kittens, and social chaos within the family groups. Hunting destabilizes cougar populations, which may cause increased conflicts with humans, pets and livestock.

3.) The Recommendations and PMPs are unnecessary, as cougars are a self-regulating species: Cougars occur at low densities relative to their primary prey, making them sensitive to bottom-up (prey declines) and top-down (human persecution) influences. Their populations must stay at a smaller size relative to their prey's biomass or risk starvation. They do this by regulating their own numbers. When prey populations decline, so do cougar populations. Cougars also require expansive habitat, with individual cats maintaining large territories that overlap with one another.

4.) The Recommendations and PMPs are particularly harmful to kittens and their mothers: In heavily hunted populations, female cougars experience higher levels of intraspecific aggression (fights with other cats) resulting in predation on themselves and their kittens. Over-hunting harms a population's ability to recruit new members if too many adult females are removed. A Utah study shows that hunting adult females orphans their kittens, leaving them to die by dehydration, malnutrition, and/or exposure. Kittens are reliant upon their mothers beyond 12 months of age.

5.) The Recommendations and PMPs may halt cougars' ability to create trophic cascades in their ecosystems, which benefits a wide range of flora, fauna and people: Cougars serve important ecological roles, including providing a variety of ecosystem services. As such, conserving these large cats on the landscape creates a socio-ecological benefit that far offsets any societal costs. Their protection and conservation has ripple effects throughout their natural communities. Researchers have found that by modulating deer populations, cougars prevented overgrazing near fragile riparian systems, resulting in greater biodiversity. Additionally, carrion left from cougar kills feeds scavengers, beetles, foxes, bears and other wildlife species, further enhancing biodiversity.

6.) The Recommendations and PMPs could increase hound hunting which is harmful to both the cougar and the hounds, as well as other wildlife: Using radio-collared trailing hounds to chase cougars and bay them into trees or rock ledges so a hunter can shoot these cats at close range is unsporting, unethical and inhumane. Hounds kill kittens, and cougars often injure or kill hounds. The practice is exceedingly stressful and energetically taxing to cougars. Additionally, hounds chase and stress non-target wildlife, such as deer and porcupines, and may trespass onto private lands.

V. The Recommendations and PMPs are not economically sound or supported by most Americans who want to see wildlife protected

DWR's cougar hunting Recommendations and PMPs are not in the best interest of Utahans, who value these animals and do not support the heavy killing currently proposed. Killing cougars deprives citizens of their ability to view or wild cougars. Nonconsumptive users are a rapidly growing stakeholder group who provide immense economic contributions to the communities in which they visit. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's wildlife-recreation reports show that wildlife watchers nationwide have increased 20% from 2011, numbering 86 million and spending \$75.9 billion, while all hunters declined by 16%, with the biggest decline in big game hunters, from 11.6 million in 2011 to 9.2 million in 2016. Hunters spent \$25.6 billion in 2016, or one-third that spent by wildlife watchers.

The majority of Utahns do not support the trophy hunting of cougars. The public values cougars and views them as an indicator of healthy

environments while posing little risk to people living near them. A new study indicates that Americans highly value wildlife, including top carnivores such as cougars, and are concerned about their welfare and conservation.

VI. Conclusion

DWR's cougar hunting Recommendations and PMPs will not maintain sustainable cougar populations in Utah and is harmful to other wildlife, including mule deer and bighorn sheep the agency seeks to protect. Therefore, we ask the Wildlife Board not to adopt the Recommendations and to prohibit the implementation of the PMPs. If recreational hunting of cougars is to continue in Utah, DWR must reduce hunting permits and quotas to better reflect sustainable cougar management. DWR should do this by placing an 11 to 14 percent cap on recreational hunt mortality, based on an updated, scientifically sound population estimate.

Sincerely,

Sundays Hunt, Utah State Director
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Jason Christensen, Director
Yellowstone to Uintas Connection
jcprolific@yahoo.com

After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Debloois:

I am neutral on the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Debloois:

I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

I oppose the changes in the season dates proposed for the San Juan, Lasal, and Book Cliffs. I live and hunt with hounds on the San Juan unit. Living and hunting with hounds on the San Juan is like having neighborhood kids come into your backyard, tear things up and go home leaving you with the mess to clean up. When you call the police their solutions is to put more restrictions on when you can use the backyard. Darren states in this presentation that the current problem is caused by non-residents pretending to hunt lions so they can hunt bear. There is a law prohibiting this. It is a simple investigation to determine if the nonresidents are pursuing a bear or lion. The DWR uses decoy deer, it is just as simple to use decoy bear tracks and scent. If there is going to be a rule or law it should be enforced. Those of us who live on these will lose approximately half of our hunting season if this proposal is approved. The "amended" proposal to allow lion hunting if you have a bear pursuit does nothing to remedy this and the "amended" proposal did not originate from the Southeast Region. According to DWR Biologist Dustin Mitchell, the "amended" proposal came from an out of State outfitter. According to DWR law enforcement, there were a total of 5 persons/camps suspected of using lion permits to pursue bear on the San Juan and Lasal units. Of these 5 suspected incidents, only 2 justified any type of follow-up investigation. Because of possibly 5 incidents, those of us who live on these units lose the opportunity to pursue lions during most of the Spring, Summer, and Fall. Please, either leave the season dates as they currently are or make the restricted season dates apply only to those that are causing the problem - nonresidents.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
August 20, 2020 6:28 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

Dear Chairman Bateman and Members of the Utah Wildlife Board,

The Mountain Lion Foundation provides the following comments on cougar hunting in Utah for the 2020-21 season. We represent over 8,000 supporters nationwide.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR)'s cougar hunting recommendations for the 2020-21 season are overly aggressive and not based on scientific fact or reason. We urge you to suspend or significantly reduce the hunting of cougars, especially females, in Utah for the reasons outlined below.

- Hunting cougars does not lead to management objectives of increasing deer and elk numbers.
- Female cougars contribute disproportionately to the population and should not be hunted.
- Cougar hunting season should be delayed to December 1st to reduce kitten mortality.
- No credible scientific evidence supports the notion that the indiscriminate killing of cougars serves any genuine interest in managing the species and likely leads to increased conflicts with humans and livestock.

I. Hunting cougars does not lead to management objectives of increasing deer and elk numbers.

Hunting cougars has long been thought to bolster populations of game species like deer, while reducing competition for this shared resource. However, recent studies that evaluated the impacts that heavy hunting of cougars has on deer and elk found that hunting cougars does not increase deer populations. In many cases, the hunting activity of cougars is actually beneficial to prey animal populations, like deer and elk. Cougars often prey on sick or weak animals because they require less energy expenditure to capture. This helps to remove diseased animals and weaker genes from the breeding population.

One study, published in February of this year, looked at cougar effects on deer populations using data from California, where cougar hunting has been prohibited since 1972, as a control and compared this data to cougar data from other state and federal agencies where cougar hunting is permitted. They tested the hypothesis that sport hunting of cougars should reduce cougar populations and result in an increase in deer and elk population numbers. The study found no evidence to support the hypothesis with deer densities, and fluctuations thereof, being similar between California and states where cougar hunting is permitted.

Another study, conducted in Yellowstone National Park, found that heavy hunting pressure on cougars had the opposite effect on mule deer populations. As trophy hunters often target the large, dominant male, they inadvertently reduce the age structure of cougar populations leaving

younger, less experienced cougars on the landscape. The study found that these younger predators typically selected for mule deer instead of larger prey species like elk. As a result, the researchers noted that, despite increased survival of fawns and females, the removal of cougars did not yield a growth in the mule deer population. Instead, they suggested that hunting cougars may actually be increasing the number of cougars that target deer.

On the East Coast of the United States, it has become clear that when cougars are extirpated, deer populations do increase. However, it is not true that simply decreasing the number of cougars will cause deer populations to increase or remain healthy over the long term. Cougars and deer have co-evolved to create a natural balance. Availability of suitable habitat, connectivity, and changes in climate (e.g. harsh winters) will continue to determine deer numbers and lion numbers will fluctuate in response, unless cougars are nearly extirpated. In other words, an agency cannot adjust prey numbers by reducing predators without risking extirpation of the predator population.

A reduction in deer numbers is likely a proximate cause of the harsh winter and not due to increased cougar predation. We ask you not to implement predator management plans, which persecute cougars. Hunting cougars year-round under the guise of a "predator management plan" is unsustainable and unethical. We also ask you to urge DWR Director Fowlks to repeal the spot-and-stalk hunt he approved for this year from August 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020.

II. Female Cougars contribute disproportionately to the population and should not be hunted.

Cougars are a long-lived, k-selected species in which females contribute disproportionately to the population. Female mortality can have disproportionate negative influences on population stability and growth. If too many females are removed from a population, the population can become unstable and collapse. Removing more than 20% of adult females (natural mortality and hunter harvest) from any given population is likely to lead to population instability. Therefore, total hunter harvest of adult females should not exceed 15-20% to account for natural mortality. The Utah Cougar Management Plan V.3 2015-2025 aims for a female harvest of 40% of the estimated population. This is not sustainable and does not account for natural mortality. If female harvest continues at this rate, there could be devastating effects to Utah's cougar populations. Female harvest should not exceed 15-20% of the estimated population size.

We ask you to amend the current cougar management plan and stop female harvest or to reduce the number to 15-20% of the estimated population.

III. All cougar hunting seasons should be delayed to December 1st to

reduce kitten mortality.

Cougar kitten survival rates are low by nature. Hunting of cougars only leads to an increase in kitten mortality in heavily hunted populations. Killing an adult female with kittens or cubs results in the death of her dependent young by dehydration, malnutrition, predation and exposure; even those who are at least six months to a year old. Removing too many adult females can impact a population's ability to recruit new members making the population less resilient to hunting and other human- and natural-caused mortality.

While it is not permitted in Utah to kill any females accompanied by spotted kittens, dependent young, especially during the denning period, are not always in the presence of their mother. Without kittens in her presence, a hunter may not be aware that a female has offspring and may kill her. As cougar kittens are dependent on their mothers for survival up to 18 months of age, the loss of their mother prior to reaching adulthood would likely result in the death of her young, even if they are around a year old.

A recent study showed that delaying the start of hunting seasons until December 1st could protect up to 91% of kittens from dying as a result of being orphaned by hunters. By better aligning any hunting seasons with denning periods, hunters will have the best opportunity to identify females with dependent young and reduce the likelihood of orphaning kittens.

We urge you to delay any hunting season to December 1st of each year to protect vulnerable kittens and cubs from being orphaned.

IV. Hunting cougars is an ineffective management strategy because populations are self-regulating.

Except in rare instances, cougar populations do not require management to control growth because their populations are self-regulating. This is driven by cougar social structure, territoriality, the abundance of prey, and the carrying capacity of the land to support those populations. Human encroachment on wild land leads to habitat loss and reduced connectivity, resulting in a lower carrying capacity for predator and prey species.

Cougars occur at low densities relative to their primary prey. Like most large carnivores, they maintain large territories to defend resources necessary for survival and reproduction, such as access to food, water, shelter and mates. Therefore, when prey populations and suitable habitat decline, so do cougar populations. Because of these predator-prey and population dynamics, cougar populations do not need to be managed by humans and should not be hunted for sport.

Even though it is an ineffective management tool, hunting is unfortunately still the greatest source of mortality for cougars throughout the majority of their range in the United States. Hunting cougars results in additive

mortality - rates that far exceed what would happen in nature - and can lead to population instability and decline.

In order to sustain viable populations of cougars, prevent human-wildlife conflict, and avoid compromising the long-term viability of cougar populations by failing to account for all human-caused sources of mortality, hunting of adult lion populations should not exceed the intrinsic growth rate of the population of interest.

The intrinsic growth rate for cougar populations is established by researchers to be between 15-17%. Assuring that human-caused mortality is limited to well below this threshold facilitates the maintenance of home ranges and social stability, reducing the likelihood of increased conflict with humans and population decline.

Any quota established by DWR must not exceed the widely accepted sustainable threshold of 12-14% for total anthropogenic loss within a population.

Based on the information in this letter, the Mountain Lion Foundation respectfully insists that the Utah Wildlife Board consider the following concerns and urge you to make the changes below:

- Repeal the spot-and-stalk hunt (August 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020) implemented by Director Fowlks.
- Stop current predator management plans throughout the state as these will not achieve the management objective of increasing deer population numbers.
- Stop female harvest or reduce female harvest to 15-20% of the estimated population size and retire the current 40% objective which is unsustainable.
- Delay the start of all cougar hunting seasons in all areas until December 1st each year to protect dependent kittens from being orphaned by hunters.
- Require that any quota established by the Utah Wildlife Board not exceed 12-14% for total anthropogenic loss within a population, based on the current population estimate.

Thank you for your consideration. Please make this comment letter a part of the official record regarding this decision.

Respectfully,

Diana Lakeland, M.S.
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After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois: I support the proposals

After viewing the 2020–21 cougar recommendations by Darren Deblois: I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I ask the Board to please consider leaving two cougar units in Limited Entry. Oquirrh/Stansbury East & Wasatch/Strawberry. Neither units are in a predator management plan and neither have wild sheep on them. I know this is not a popular proposal and I am aware of the pressure the Wildlife Board and DWR are under to reduce cougar numbers as fast as possible. However, I cannot see any negative impacts this will have. The same amount of lions will die either way, but a sportsmen burning 17 preference points or spending \$6000 on a conservation permit will have a much more enjoyable hunt.

One other item I ask to be considered is only shortening the Lasal, Bookcliffs & San Juan cougar season dates to nonresidents. They are the reason for the recommended changes, therefore I do not believe residents should be punished as well.

Thank you,
Cory Huntsman
801-875-5367

Form Name:
Submission Time:

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August 20, 2020 11:28 pm

**After viewing the 2020–21 bobcat and
furbearer proposals by Darren Deblois:** I support the proposals

**After viewing the 2020–21 cougar
recommendations by Darren Deblois:** I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

Dear Wildlife Board members,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Utah Houndsmen Association. We understand the urgent need to work together towards solutions that are proven to be effective in establishing deer herds appropriate to a unit's carrying capacity. In some instances, where deer herd objectives that have been established through careful analysis of all associated factors, and predators have been shown to have a clear impact on a unit's inability to meet the objective, we recognize that a reduction in predator populations could potentially help deer numbers recover. The majority of our members are deer hunters as well as cougar hunters and we desire to have healthy deer herds as well as a sustainable, healthy cougar population. We understand a balance between the predator/prey relationship is required in order to have the best experience in both deer and lion hunting opportunities. Listed below are some of our concerns.

- We do not agree with the predator management hunt strategy laid out by the board. Cougars are protected in Utah and a year round season with unlimited harvest puts into question the "protected" status of cougars. The Predator Management Strategies used in the past, fit nicely within the constructs of the new legislation passed this spring. The Division has indicated on several occasions that the existing Predator Management Plan works to effectively reduce cougar populations.

- The Ballard Paper from the Mule Deer Working Group that has been used by the Division as one of the working documents around Mule Deer Management, states on multiple occasions, that it is inconclusive in finding that reducing predator numbers increases deer herd sizes. Consequently; we suggest more conclusive research be done, prior to such massive, sweeping changes in the unlimited hunt strategies

- Many of the units the Division has put into Predator Management have deer herd objectives that the Division has indicated are not realistic and in need of adjustment. Some of these units have not come close to their herd objectives in the last 20-30 years despite heavy predator harvest. Before units are placed into Predator Management status, we suggest these herd size objectives be adjusted to realistic numbers based on the latest range conditions, rangeland science, and biological indicators.

-We would like to see specific and measurable criteria for when, and how long, a unit is put into Predator Management. These criteria should also indicate specific and measurable criteria to indicate when a unit should be removed from Predator Management. The Division has indicated to houndsmen over and over that Predator Management is intended to be short in duration, and effective at eliminating predators. We are concerned that when a unit is placed into Predator Management for some amount of time, and there is not a subsequent increase in deer herd numbers, as the Ballard paper indicates is not unlikely, that units will be left in Predator Management for long periods of time.

The UHA understands that the majority of these concerns will most likely not be able to be addressed prior to the board meeting, especially with the new house bill mandating certain criterias. We ask the Board to please take into consideration the following proposals.

Not supporting the suggestion of multiple lion tags per hunter and reasoning behind this recommendation.

Limiting cougar season dates to Nonresidents only on the three units the DWR recommended.

Maintaining minimal but specific areas for trophy purposes. Very similar to sheep units. This will give the public the opportunity to draw a trophy permit which will maintain the legitimacy of the bonus points system by providing the potential of trophy experiences within the State of Utah.

Maintain the current hunt strategy with respect to units in Predator Management by establishing quotas on these units congruent with the Predator Management Plan used in the 2019-2020 season.

We do not support the two lion per hunter rule change. While it is doubtful that this population control method will yield a significant increase to the lion harvests numbers, we do believe it will portray a negative perception about the protected game species. It potentially portrays this animal as a vermin to be tossed aside and not to be respected as a managed big game species. It also promotes an increased opportunity for unethical killing of a protected game animal managed by the state DWR. The demand for cougar hunts by legitimate sportsmen is high enough the harvest objectives can be met, if the populations lions exist, by targeting the trophy hunter that will actually use the carcass for a trophy mount and/or process the meat we will maintain the integrity and respect for the species. We do not feel at this point it is necessary to promote wasting Utah game animals by allowing people to kill two cats per year. We can still easily reach our desired quotas without diminishing an ethical hunt.

Please consider implementing the shortened cougar season dates on the San Juan, Lasal and Bookcliffs to nonresidents only. We feel that since it is the nonresidents that are illegally bear hunting while claiming to be lion hunting, the proposed season dates should only include nonresidents. Residents should not be punished because of nonresidents actions.

The last proposal that we oppose is eliminating all of our Limited Entry cougar units. Utah has always had four LE cougar units, this year the Division is recommending eliminating them all. Due to devastating low deer numbers on two of those units we do agree with removing a couple. However, cougars are still considered a trophy game animal and sportsmen have accumulated upwards of 18 preference points. From our understanding, the main reasons for eliminating the LE units is due to the season dates of the associated conservation and draw permits. If left in a LE unit The Divisions concerns are if the winter deer counts came in alarmingly low, they would not have the ability to do mid year emergency tag increase. We feel one simple solution to this would be to put a disclaimer in the Guide Book and/or Permit that states in the event of winter

deer counts coming in below the desired threshold, this unit is subject to a mid year emergency tag increase and open to harvest objective beginning February 27th (or whatever the date is for the split season opener for that current year). The two units that we would like to see remain as LE units are Wasatch Strawberry and Oquirrh/Stansbury East. We feel the same amount of cats will be killed on both units, but will give sportsmen a more quality hunt, which they should have with 18 preference points or a \$6000 Conservation permit.

Our understanding is that the existing Predator Management Plan is undergoing an overhaul but has not yet been completed. We would like to see this year maintain management under the existing plan until the new plan has been finalized. Some of the units recently placed in Predator Management status were done so as a result of HB125. The hunt strategies utilized under the current Predator Management Plan are already effective at reducing predator populations while still maintaining a minimal cougar population. There is a significant constituency who do not want to see the elimination of cougars. We would also like to have voice and representation as the new plan is developed.