

Form Name:  
Submission Time:

July/August 2021 RAC Feedback  
July 14, 2021 2:49 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the 2021–22 cougar recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

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

I think jumping the paunsagant number from 14 to 22 is ridiculous there aren't that many cougars left on the paunsagant! I would gladly let someone tag along with me if they think there is a large amount of lion's out there and they could show me where they are! Also I feel that the lion's are getting blamed for miss management of the biggame population there are far to many hunts and tags given every year!

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

July/August 2021 RAC Feedback  
July 14, 2021 7:19 pm

**Which best describes your position regarding the 2021–22 furbearer recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

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

There are multiple people who take more bobcats then they are supposed to anyways so you up the tags and they will just keep killing them and putting them in the freezer for the next year so why up the tags? Maybe the dwr should answer the phones when people call to turn in the people who catch over the limit and stolen traps!!!!

**Which best describes your position regarding the 2021–22 cougar recommendations?**

Strongly agree

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

More needs to be done to eliminate cougar's from desimating our big horn sheep and deer herds. One trail camera picture on the Henry mountains has 6 lions in the picture.

The cougars have reduced the deer numbers by over 50% in the past several years. Seeing the same thing with several groups of bighorn sheep.

Glassed up two different lions on the Henry mountain the other day. Feeding 150,000 dollar deer and sheep to a \$2000 lion doesn't make sense.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

July/August 2021 RAC Feedback  
July 16, 2021 9:16 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the 2021–22 cougar recommendations?** Strongly agree

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?** I support increasing cougar tags in every unit and this proposal doesn't do enough to fix the problems. Cougar harvest should be higher until our deer herds recover to a certain level and problem cats decline significantly.

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Form Name:  
Submission Time:

July/August 2021 RAC Feedback  
July 20, 2021 10:07 am

**Which best describes your position regarding the 2021–22 cougar recommendations?**

Somewhat disagree

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

For Mt Dutton you recommend not doing an unlimited quota, this isn't right. There are no deer on that mountain, you have cut deer tags because of this. We have a lot of trail cameras on the mountain and have seen the cougar population explode over the past 5 years. The condition of the deer herd down there is pathetic. Do something about the cougars!

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**Which best describes your position regarding the 2021–22 cougar recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

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

The legislation passed in 2020 regarding predator control and predator management is in violation of the DWR mandate to maintain healthy cougar populations for the enjoyment of various user groups including non-hunters. As a non-hunter I demand that my feedback be taken into consideration in the management plan, as well as any other policy documents or proposed changes for the 2021-22 cougar harvest. Current management strategies and policies are heavily biased toward hunters and are not in compliance with the agency's mandate. The DWR is required to solicit and give weighty consideration to the feedback and interests of non-hunters and other groups advocating for cougar protection. As it currently stands, the DWR is almost exclusively serving the special interest of hunters, not the entire user group the DWR is mandated to serve. Predators such as cougars are under severely pressure at this time due to drought, wildfire, over-hunting and a limited prey base. Further protection for this wildlife species needs to be enacted, not further over-harvesting. Cougars cannot maintain any semblance of a healthy genetically diverse population if the over-harvesting that took place last year is maintained at the same level or increased as noted in the proposed changes. The DWR is responsible for managing for all Utahans and must not adopt or approve of these changes to policy. I strongly object to last year's legislation as well as the actions of the Director to further reduce the already frighteningly low numbers of cougars in our state. Do not enact these heavily biased, illegal and grossly negligent changes in policy or management strategy. Revise your management plan to reflect a more balanced approach that more equitably represents the needs of non-hunters.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the 2021–22 cougar recommendations?**

Strongly agree

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

I agree with the direction the division is taking lion management. Lion populations have been increasing over time while deer populations have struggled over the same amount of time. It is about time we start to try and get them under control so we can try and have a sustainable mule deer population. We have managed lions at the expense of mule deer for long enough. It is hard to swallow when millions of dollars are being put toward habitat projects for elk and deer only to have lions take the cream off the top every year so there is no chance of them ever gaining ground. I would have like to of seen Mt Dutton unit at least have an increase in permits if not have an unlimited quota as the lions are definitely having an affect on recruitment and overall deer populations. That mountain is way to rough for most individuals to hunt lions effectively and that is will limit the overharvest of lions. We should allow any hunter that is capable and willing to help out in bringing that lion population to a reasonable balance with the ungulate population. I appreciate the increase in lion quotas to Paunsagunt, Pine Valley North, and Panguitch units. These are long overdo and will help mule deer start to recover. Most good lion hunters out there can find lions easily on these units if you give them a chance to hunt on them. There will always be lazy lion hunters with a half dozen crappy dogs that complain about not finding lions but, they are the same kind of people that complain about having a Paunsagunt or Henry's deer tag and not finding a 200" buck off the road. Thank you

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**Which best describes your position regarding the 2021–22 furbearer recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

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

I do not support the Division's recommendations. While I do not support trapping in any capacity, I do not think that the cap on how many bobcats can be killed should be removed. Limits should remain in place so to avoid overharvest. Additionally, I think the furbearer/ bobcat plan needs urgent reevaluation. Thank you for your consideration.

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**Which best describes your position regarding the 2021–22 cougar recommendations?**

Strongly disagree

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

My name is Denise Peterson and I am a resident of Utah and a Conservation Advocate, GIS and Media Specialist for the Mountain Lion Foundation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on DWR's cougar hunt recommendations.

First, I would like to offer a couple of recommendations, based primarily on correspondence we have had with the Utah Houndsmen Association.

These include:

1. Not adding the Beaver East unit to predator management status.
  - a. We would further recommend not adding any more units to predator management status until the DWR establishes clear criteria for when a unit enters and exits predator management status. The public should also be given opportunities to provide feedback as these criteria are created. And, ...

2. That hunters are not permitted to kill any collared cougars so that researchers can accurately study cougars in Utah without interference.

These recommendations by UHA are in line with current research on cougar management and we'd like to support them.

Mounting evidence suggests that a management approach of intense cougar population control to increase deer populations is less effective than one might expect. Research published by Dr. Hilary Cooley and others in 2009 found that heavy cougar harvest corresponds with increased immigration that more than compensates for cougar removal. More recently, a study published in 2020 by Drs. John Laundre' and Chris Papouchis found that deer populations in a state where cougars are not hunted, show no significant differences in density and abundance compared to deer populations in states that allow cougar hunting, when controlling for other factors.

Instead of targeting cougars and other predators to boost big game species, we instead need to address climate issues such as droughts and wildfire, as well as habitat loss and fragmentation due to urban expansion. We ask that DWR reevaluate mule deer and bighorn sheep population objectives and set more realistic targets for the species that incorporate current habitat availability and climate factors. We further ask that DWR factor in the impacts of domestic livestock and disease transmission to wild populations instead of defaulting to killing more cougars.

Finally, we ask that the DWR consider the myriad ecosystem services that cougars provide when establishing their hunt recommendations. These cats keep big game populations healthy, while also promoting biodiversity. Cougars also predate on deer with chronic wasting disease which improves the health of deer herds, which benefits hunters. Moreover, one recent study found that cougars actually help keep roadways safer by changing deer behavior and reducing deer-vehicle collisions.

These cats have much to offer for both Utah's hunting and non-hunting communities, and the hunt recommendations should reflect this reality.

Thank you for your time.