

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 14, 2020 6:32 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 am neutral on the proposals

**Do you have any additional comments
about the recommendations?** The Deer numbers are down. To many cougars, coyotes, and bears. I think
the cougar tags need to be increased.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 15, 2020 6:51 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? It is about time we can hunt mountain lion during the regular big game hunting season. Why can't all units be harvest objective? There are still too many lions in the Monroe, Paunsagant & Morgan-South Rich with the low deer numbers. The Mule deer have declined greatly in these areas due to predation. Cougar tag availability still needs to be higher in these areas than what is being proposed.

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 think they should lower the tags per hunter. I saw lots of bobcat tracks last year just didn't have time to pursue them. I don't think they're declining. Definitely not declining where I've been. I've found deer kills that had bobcat tracks on them. They can be hard on deer as well.

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

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I hope they allow you to harvest two lions per year. I harvested a cat on opening day of split season and saw lots of tracks after that. Definitely lots of lions and few deer. Some areas have more cat tracks than deer tracks. Great opportunity for hunters to get into cat hunting.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 16, 2020 7:55 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
July 17, 2020 9:37 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? It seems unreasonable to not decrease the amount of tags if management objectives are not being met.

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

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I believe it to be unreasonable to keep a harvest limit at twice the previous years harvest total when that unit in itself did not meet the maturity of age requirement which was created by the state to help develop a healthy mountain lion population.

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 support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? You are not doing near enough. I hunt an area in Cache. In a small area of less than a mile radius me and another hunter had seen 5 different lions. Thats totally ridiculous. Problem is you guys do a horrible job of managing the game in utah. Your wardens come to camp sites and just make small talk and dont even ask the right questions and they do not visit every camp. They r totally clueless to what really is happening with our mismanagement of the game. Randy Markert 801 200 9352. Call me.

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?

Bobcats are known assailants without notice they are a real menace. Having an increase in hunting the felines should be considered important. Farmers and ranchers do not like the critters and for good reason. Killing the cats are essential when cattle and other farm animals are in danger.

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?

Cougars are the biggest threat in the northern region of Utah. However, when they become too numerous they should be culled out or captured and moved to a far away place or a Zoo.

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? THE THEY ARE OVER REACHING AND WILL END UP HARMING THE NATURAL BALANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENTS THEY TARGETTING 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 TARGETTING IN AREAS TAHT ARE ALREADY UNDER THE STRAIN IF GLOBAL WARMING

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?

Proposal # 2. First, the Wildlife Board is made up of majority hunters, so every decision that is made is bias. Two, the decision to increase cougar kill is NOT based science but only based on the wants of the majority board. Science tells us how unique cougars are as they manage their own populations. Listen to science and just let them be. Third, the allowed methods of killing are cruel and inhumane by today's standards. Utah's cougar plan has always been bias, inhumane and bottom of the barrel and highly influenced by hunters.

Of note regarding Proposal #3, There was no spot to give feedback for the proposal #3, Beaver WMA Habitat Management Plan. The purpose of the Beaver WMA is to provide winter range for big game species. But yet the activities that will be allowed are "hunting". In short, it's just a way to lure animals for kill. I am opposed to the allowed activities. Give wildlife a break, let them have one safe place.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 19, 2020 2:58 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 categorically oppose any increase to depredation of Mountain Lions,
Bobcats, and other furbearers. Scientific research has proven this to be a
counterproductive approach.

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

**Do you have any additional comments
about the recommendations?** I categorically oppose any increase to depredation of Mountain Lions,
Bobcats, and other furbearers. Scientific research has proven this to be a
counterproductive approach.

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 Daniel Richins 100% support increased cougar permits in the northern Region and across the entire state!! I have been a livestock operator sheep, goats, and cows as well as a big game outfitter In Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and new Mexico. Over the past 25 years our deer herds have plummeted to the lowest they've ever been!!

I have noticed a dramatic increase in a predator population to the point where we are seeing cougars during the day Weekly while we are hunting, I would like to see it made I to an unlimited quota until we get to 75% of our Deer objective and that is my stance for the entire state. We have areas in the state where the deer are almost nonexistent! Not to mention the number of livestock we lose every year To predators! Take the work off of the Government Trapper's make it possible for Hunters to have a hunting experience control the predators put money back into our economy and help bring our gear her back!!!

I want to thank my biologist Dave Rich for recognizing this problem And going to bat for landowners, Ranchers, sportsman, outfitters, Etc.. I also want to thank the director of the DWR for stepping up and issuing more Lion tags across the state!! We cannot afford to lose our deer herd And predator control is about the only variable we CAN control, so we should. Thanks Daniel Richins

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 10:36 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 support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I support increases in lion tags to a state wide unlimited quota until the deer heard shows a substantial recovery. Utah's deer heard by large is in the tank and needs some relief from large predators to aid in it's recovery.

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 support an increase in mountain lion permits, specifically in the northern region. I think the quota should be unlimited statewide. I've been a guide, hunter, shed hunter in the area for a long time and can tell you from first-hand, in field experience that there is a major mountain lion overpopulation problem. I've seen so many dead deer carcassas from obvious cougar kills that its made me sick to my stomach. There is a balance in nature and right now that balance has been thrown way out of limits in favor of mountain lions to deer/elk, especially deer. The in state and out of state revenue that comes from deer hunting far outweighs cats and if this continues, Utah will continue to lose incoming outdoorsman to other states in the region. This unlimited tags/quota needs to continue until we get our deer population back to normal; right now we aren't even close. Cats will always continue to thrive, but the same cannot be said for the deer if we allow them to continually get wiped out by the cat population. Thank you for hearing our voices.

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?

There are far too many lions in the norther region. And doing studies with the division last winter show the only cause for the decrease in deer population is predators. Because the deer are strong and healthy in the winter but the population is still decreasing. And I happen to see a mountain lion nearly every time I go out hunting.

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

I oppose the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

There are far too many lions in the norther region. And doing studies with the division last winter show the only cause for the decrease in deer population is predators. Because the deer are strong and healthy in the winter but the population is still decreasing. And I happen to see a mountain lion nearly every time I go out hunting.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

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

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 hunt and guide for 4 months each year in the area and have done so for the last ten years. I have seen the deer numbers severely decrease over the last few years. Controlling lion populations is key to helping the deer populations to start increasing back to healthy levels. Unlimited lion tags is a necessity to get back in balance.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 11:15 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 need unlimited tags and quotas until the deer and elk populations improve! Been hunting/guiding in this region for years and haven't seen bachelor herds in decades like they used to be. Numbers of predator tags need to be increased until the deer herds can properly rebound and remain at a sustainable level.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 11:27 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 support the proposals

**Do you have any additional comments
about the recommendations?** I support the increase on cougar licenses statewide and the unlimited quota
to get our deer herd back in good standing.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 11:33 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 support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? There should be unlimited tags and unlimited quota until the deer population comes back. I live in Montana and have hunted northern Utah for many years. I am thinking of going else where if the deer population does not improve.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 11:53 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 support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I personally have been guiding hunts for A while. I have noticed a severe decline in deer population. At the same time I have noticed the increase in predators has become way to big. I believe that we should have unlimited tags and unlimited quota until we get our deer population back to normal.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 12:04 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? Ive been a hunting guide for many years and notice the deer population decline . I've seen too many predators and think we need unlimited tags and quota until we get the population back.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 12:17 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? The deer numbers in our region have tanked and we see way more cougars than we ever have. I've been guiding in this area for quite a while and the difference is obvious. Cougars are having a drastically negative effects on our deer herds. There should be NO QUOTA on lion tags in this area. Let's get our deer herds back to healthy numbers!

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 12:20 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 the increase of lion tags. They are decimating the populations of deer and elk. Guiding hunts gets more and more demoralizing when you see more and more bone piles and less live animals.

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? Over the last 5 years I've seen more cougars in the field than all my life combined... a friend of mine and I were stalked last fall archery elk hunting... twice, by the same cat, and it was HUGE! All the while our deer herds are suffering mightily.... I've seen a decrease in the deer herds throughout the state not just northern Utah! I feel an increase in tags is a must, if we are to have opportunities for sportsmen and women... our youth is what will drive this sport, and if they are bored due to lack of game, they'll seek entertainment elsewhere, namely the basement on their computers...

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 12:41 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 12:48 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?** Please increase the number of cougar permits in northern Utah. The deer
herds are declining in part to an increase in the number of cougars. We will
lose future hunters if we don't improve the deer herds.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 12:49 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 support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? There must be better control and management of the cougars in Utah. I have been out on the general deer hunt and have seen more cougars than deer on some days. Cougars are overpopulated and decimating deer herds.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 12:52 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? Increase the quotas and keep open longer.

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

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Please increase the cougar quotas!!! While I am out in the mountains I often see more lion tracks than deer tracks. Our deer herds need help. Please increase the lion quotas substantially! Increase harvest objectives.
Thanks

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 1:02 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 1:04 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 strongly support the divisions recommendations to manage cougars. For too long we have let lion populations go unchecked and that has caused our mule deer numbers to suffer. The houndsmen have had a loud voice when it comes to this issue, but the fact is that more people hunt deer than any other species in the state. We should be managing for deer not cougars.

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? This is on par with the way the UDWR has managed just about everything this past decade... Give in to the loudest voice or pander to the almighty dollar. I've hunted Northern Utah my whole life. I've seen the deer population eb and flow throughout my last 40 years. We got hit recently with some unfavorable winters on the deer. The numbers I hear are not good, but we've been there before. They will rebound. It takes a concerted effort to help them... A few more cougars harvested.... Yes. But the ungodly number of them that was killed last year specifically in the chalk creek drainage is nothing more than a slaughter! How about we stop and think about conservation for a minute. Numbers like these have NEVER even been considered. For decades we have killed fewer than 10 annually. Now 30+? We all know that this is nothing more than an outfitter using lions as a scapegoat. Poor deer hunting... Blame the cougars. How about we cut hunter numbers... Not just general numbers, but these bloated CWMU numbers... Do your part and quit blaming nature. Increase the cougar harvest a bit and cut deer harvest permits across the board. Don't kill the cougar population based on the complaints of a greedy used car salesman...

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 1:10 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 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 manage a small area for hunting near Coalville Utah. Within the last 5 years we have seen a drastic change due to mountain lion predation. Our mule deer population is being hit hard, pushing them further and further into town which in turn is bringing the mountain lions with them. 3 of the Lions taken off our property this year were within less than a mile of several homes and one was within less than 2 miles from the center of downtown Coalville. We also have been having grazing livestock being killed by Lions more and more frequently, and more people coming into contact with roaming lions than I believe is safe. I appreciate the DWR offering the opportunity to the individuals who are experiencing the economic impact and safety concerns, the ability to speak directly with you in order to address our problem. Thank you for your time.

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?

The biggest issue I've seen has been overlooked by the DNR for years and that is you guys neglect the watershed areas. East canyon mainly. I've been attacked by a lion and had I not had an elk she'd in my hand it would have been ugly. I even have it on video! I've had one come up to me in my hammock almost within arms reach. I've had roughly a dozen instances where lions are holding their ground when in contact with humans. It's only a matter of time and someone is going to get hurt up there because they're not afraid of humans. They need to be pressured. You can't run dogs and that's understandable but the management plan can't be neglected, it just needs to adjust to the circumstances. I'd suggest an over the counter add on tag instead of an antlerless control permits. You can't spot and stalk up there because the terrain is so thick but in the event that you had one come in on you like I have many times, you could harvest that animal and put the pressure back on the lions.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 1:16 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 definitely need to increase the amount cougar tags issued. I've seen more lions in the last 5 years than ever in my life, and less deer. Surely there's some correlation. Thanks

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 1:18 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? I do a little guiding. I believe the deer population is way down from these predators. Please help us control the cougar population. It's out of control now.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 1:20 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 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? Yes the MTN Lion tags for Harvest Objective unit chalk creek needs to drop from 30 to about 10.... when you go out and can't even put a cat up that weighs over 70 to 80 lbs you know you've killed most the cats out. The reason why the deer population is hurting in the chalk creek unit is from commercial outfitting going on, shooting every antlered animal that comes into sight... the tags for outfitters needs to be cut drastically so the bucks can start to get to a mature age before they are shot... but since the DWR keeps letting outfitters raise tag limits every year the numbers are going to keep drastically dropping along with quality it's nothing to do with MTN lions... The DWR needs to wake up and fix this issue in northern Utah or pretty soon the whole unit will be nothing but yearling bucks and bulls and it will never be the same again cause it will be killed out...

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 1:21 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?** Needs to increase the cougar kill because they are hurting the hunt for deer
and big horn sheep. I have been a deer hunter since 1960. Please up the
amount because they are killing our fawns and I'm afraid if we don't keep
the the cougars down they might go after our dogs, cats, and children
walking in the mountains.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 1:23 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?** INCREASE PERMITS ACROSS THE BOARD. THESE PREDATORS ARE
DECIMATING THE MULE DEER HEARD!

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'm involved in the hunting and my family is in the Cattle and sheep business. I have spent a lot of time on the hill for a number of years and the past 4 years I have seen cats in person and way to many on trail cameras. The deer herds have suffered greatly and a number of livestock are lost each year. There are to many predators. I feel the lion quota should be unlimited state wide until the deer herds have rebounded, and that would also help the livestock business also. Thanks. Courtney Richins

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 1:29 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 agree with said proposals and would encourage to even increase the
permits to unlimited harvest objectives. We have way to lions killing our
deer and even the elk.

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

**Do you have any additional comments
about the recommendations?** I agree 100% with said proposals and would also add that we should go to
an unlimited tag and unlimited quotas until we can get our deer populations
back in check.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 1:31 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 been doing guides hunts for many years and I have seen a drastic change in the deer herd. The predators are too high and need to be back in check. I agree 100% for issuing more lion tags statewide and doing an unlimited quota.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 1:37 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 1:38 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? There are way to many cats. We have a big problem. I used to never get pictures of cats on my trail cameras 5 years ago and now I am getting pictures all the time it is not good. We need to get the deer herds back to normal.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 1:41 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 1:46 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 1:50 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? This is a great step in the right direction! I am so please with the Division's proposal. Deer populations are in trouble throughout the State. This proposal will give the Division the tools to help ungulate herds that really need to be protected, so that they can recover. Great work! Thank you for seeing a problem and having the courage to try and help it.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 2:04 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'm concerned about the East Canyon Unit. I feel as though the deer numbers are down and the cat numbers are increasing. I would like to see harvest objectives on this unit increased for Cougars. I have been seeing more and more signs of cougars and have had a considerable increase in Cougars preying on our sheep. I feel as though the deer populations and those who run livestock are suffering due to increased number of cougars.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 2:09 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 need a higher quota in the Morgan south rich unit, the unit is being over run with lions. We own property in the cottonwood canyon drainage and have seen a unreal boom in the lion population over the last 5-6 yrs.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 2:11 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 support the proposals

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 am a landowner and livestock owner in the Chalk Creek Area. Each year we lose between 35000-50000 a year in predator losses primarily due to cougar kills. I fully support increases in the hunting tags for cougars. I have also seen the wildlife populations greatly diminished by predators also. By allowing hunters to hunt lions is a win/win for Land owners, Livestock producers, and government trappers. I would highly encourage increases on Lion tags.

Jeremy Boyer
C: 435 659 5041

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 2:22 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?** The deer herd in being decimated. Let's increase the cougar permits.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 2:26 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 all should support this because this is what us as ranchers and hunters
and gonna have to do to have a stable deer population and a stable
livestock population. The lion population is way out of hand and we need to
put a handle on them. And this is the way to do it.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 2:29 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 have seen 8 different lions these last 12 months on just the 900 acres my family has owned in Morgan county. They also usually get a few of our sheep when we push them through for winter

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 2:51 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 believe there needs to be a statewide unlimited quota on cougars. They do the most damage to our deer and elk population. Deer herds already take a beating from our harsh winters. Need to help them the most we can!

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 2:58 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 support the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 3:00 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? I would like to see at least an additional 25% increase in objective cougar harvests for the Chalk Creek unit. We are seeing more cougars and cougar sign than ever before and there needs to be more harvests as deer populations are suffering. The new cougar spot and stalk is a good idea and I hope it helps some but more harvest objective is important and needed. Thanks, Ryan Bingham

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 3:01 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 completely support this new management plan. We primarily hunt on private land and don't have access to Cougar. through the cooperative wildlife program. This gives us the ability to hunt Cougar.'s that are decimating our deer herds on private land. Many private landowners never hunt the Cougar.'s because they don't have a means or ability. This will greatly help not only the wildlife but also the cattle and sheep that grays these private Lyons. I am in full support.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 3:06 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? PLEASE consider moving the entire Chalk Creek unit to a PMP. The amount of cougars that I have seen on this unit and caught on my trail cameras has risen exponentially over the past 5 years. I also live in Bountiful and something needs to be done about the amount of lions in the hills above Davis county.
Look at your records, DWR agents had to go into the city itself to take out cougars at least once in the past year.
Please increase the harvest objective for the entire unit

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 3:21 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?** Up the cougar tags!

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 3:37 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 am neutral on the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

Bottom Line Up Front:

Part A: I provided rationale for the need to improve the language within the Cougar guidebook.

Part B: I provided rationale to change a particular law with respect to Cougar hunting.

Part A:

Compared to other Utah Guidebooks an unusual statement is made in the 2019-2020 Cougar Guidebook. On page 22, Hunting hours and methods, Prohibited methods, it says "Cougar may be taken..., using only the methods listed in this guidebook". Presumably, this is a catchall statement to prevent hunting methods that are typically detailed out in other Utah guidebooks as prohibited. However, upon closer analysis of the cougar guidebook, the only approved hunting method listed in the guidebook is "Use of dogs" under Section "Hunting hours and methods".

Since I don't have dogs I spoke with multiple DWR office "clerks" and Utah game wardens from different regions for clarification. The five people I spoke with all believed spot and stalk cougar hunting is a legal method, and both wardens further discussed the what types of baiting and calling methods they believe are legal. However, given the guidebook (the law, because here it specifically states the guidebook as reference and not a State code) leaves no flexibility in its wording, I don't believe these interpretations can be seen as anything more than individual opinions that will get me into trouble if I follow them.

I would greatly appreciate the cougar guidebook be treated the same as all other guidebooks in that all prohibited and approved hunting methods be detailed out and the statement "using only the methods listed in this guidebook" be removed. Potential topics to clarify would be baiting, spot and stalk, sitting over a cougar's kill, hand calls, and electronic calls.

Part B:

I politely request the use of electronic calls and motion devices (simulating wounded prey like a rabbit) be an approved hunting method based on the following rationale from a hunter without dogs available:

1. Stalking a cougar is not an option for all hunters (such as myself; I have a bad knee).
2. Allowing the use of an electronic call and a motion device would give the cougar something to focus its eyes and ears on instead of the hunter and would create some space between hunter and the perceived (electronic) prey.
3. Not allowing their use requires the hunter to act as prey/bait by making wounded prey sounds with hand calls. This is problematic because:
 - a. Cougars are an apex hunter with an ability to attack, severely wound and kill some humans.
 - b. Based on self-defense (Tueller Theory) standards it takes the average person 1.5 seconds to draw and fire a pistol. A (slow) cougar can travel 29 yards in that time. Therefore, a distance no less than 29 yard is

potentially a very dangerous situation if the cougar decides to run and pounce on its prey as is standard practice for them. I can provide dozens of written stories from various types (cougar, elk, predator) of hunters testifying cougars are so stealthy the cougar was able to approach the hunter or electronic call within 10 yards or less without the hunter knowing. Bottom line, if the cougar runs at the hunter, they can no react fast enough to hunt or stop a cougar attacking its "prey".

c. If the hunter does call in a cougar and can not or chooses not to shoot (due to mother with kittens or a bad shoot angle for clean kill) the cougar/s have now been educated that it is okay to stalk a human. This of course could lead to future human interaction problems.

d. Cougars rely primarily on their eyesight to locate prey. Any amount of movement from the hunter (such as using handheld prey calls) will be noticed before the hunter is even aware and the cougar will leave. Again, there many written hunter accounts of this. Only after the hunter left did they spot fresh cougar tracks where they watched the hunter and left.

4. The success rate of cougar hunters not using dogs is so low it would be insignificant and virtually have no effect on the states management of cougars.

a. 2018 was the last year the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) didn't allow the use of dogs while cougar hunting, but did allow electronic calls. According to the ODFW, in 2018, when electronic calls were allowed (they still are) but no dogs, only 2% of hunters successfully harvested a cougar.

b. According to the Utah Cougar Annual Report 2018, 54% of hunters successfully harvested a cougar and only 66% of the total cougar quota was filled when including all types of cougar mortality.

c. Using this data, the most conservative harvest estimate for Utah would be adding an additional two percent harvest success from electronic callers onto the 2018 statistics. This would yield a 56% hunter success and 68% of the cougar quota filled from all types of mortality. This would be at most an additional 13 cougars throughout the state.

i. Harvest objective units currently fulfilling their quotas would not have more cougars harvested, but may close slightly earlier.

ii. A more accurate but less conservative estimate would be to quantify a 2% harvest success for only the hunters afield not using dogs. Also, while I have not seen data, I presume hunter success rate when not using dogs or electronic calls must be less than 2% or states would be worried about prohibiting hand calls over electronic calls.

d. There may be less workload for game wardens because they wouldn't have to worry about if a hunter with an electronic call is coyote hunting or illegally cougar hunting.

5. Electronic calls and devices are allowed in other states including Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, New Mexico, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Nebraska. I did not research all states.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 3:41 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 own property above Oakley (Weber Canyon Road) our deer herd has dwindled to the lowest numbers in 14 years!! PLEASE allow more Cougars to be taken out of this area and help our deer numbers!!!

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 3:52 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?** Last year was the first year I saw more cougars glassing in the 4,5,6 area
than I did mature bucks.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 3:53 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? Thanks Utah DWR for making the proposal that you have. It follows the lion plan and We know it's what the silent majority wants and it's what our deer herd needs. Northern rac members, please don't let a few small groups sway your vote. Thanks Steve Sorensen

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 4:06 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 support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I've seen a growing number in cougar populations where I hunt and a very dwindling number in the deer population. Cougars are giving a heavy beating to the deer in my area and I'd like to see them cut back.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 4:08 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 support the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 4:13 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?** Even more tags needed!

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

I am neutral on the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals?

I believe that the number of cougar and overall predator tags needs to greatly increase. There has never been an issue with predators levels being too low yet that is continuously the case with deer and elk. Increasing the predator tags greatly is the only methodology that has not been tested. Slight raises in tag numbers just do not get us there quickly enough.

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

I am neutral on the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

I believe that the number of cougar and overall predator tags needs to greatly increase. There has never been an issue with predators levels being too low yet that is continuously the case with deer and elk. Increasing the predator tags greatly is the only methodology that has not been tested. Slight raises in tag numbers just do not get us there quickly enough.

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

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 increasing the cougar tags and think it should be an open objective to get the deer population back on track. I've hunted Utah for 15 years and have guided for numerous years. I'm a certified biologist in Texas and Colorado but I'm seeing a consistent decrease in your deer populations and feel it has a direct influence on predator management. Utah use to be a premiere area for mule deer and now I'd say it's below average at its best. It's a problem when you start seeing lions while you are glassing first deer or elk.

I know winters have been rough but looking at collared data you are seeing that predators are just as bad. I do t feel these winters are as bad as winters in the past but that's a different story. I think there is so my many predators the deer are being pushed out of areas. Please wake up before it's too late.

Nevada and Arizona allow you to kill 2 lions and they still have lions. This is a serious issue not only in your state but Wyoming and Colorado.

Open up the lion permits and get your deer back to objective while you still can and then evaluate your lion populations.

Good luck from a concerned Non-resident.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 5:12 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?** The number of cougar tags should absolutely be increased.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

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

**Do you have any additional comments
about the recommendations?** There are too many!

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 100% support adding more cougar tags! These last two winters have been extremely hard on our deer herd. Limiting predators will help more deer that survive the winter to make it into the next year.

Additionally, I live in an area (Bountiful) where cougars have been coming into peoples yards. This is extremely tense for those of us who live in the area. The more cougars tags we can add the better.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 6:21 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? Thanks for everything you do as volunteers in the RAC! I know you're going to get tons of "you're a bleeping bleeping bleep" through this, so I just wanted to be a ray of sunshine for you, and let you know you're appreciated.

I'm really excited about the spot and stalk cougar opportunity, because I know with that tag in my pocket, I won't run into one ;)

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 6:41 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? Please give more tags for Morgan-south rich and Ogden, there are many many lions in those units, we see them every year and have noticed a huge decrease in deer population.

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 believe that the population of cougar in Northern UT (specifically Chalk Creek Unit) exceeds what is acceptable! Mountain lions are the number one contributing factor to the death of Mule Deer. As a rancher and hunter, I have first-hand witnessed the suffering mule deer populations throughout the Chalk Creek unit. It is nearly every time I go onto our ranch and hunting area that I see sign of one...or stalked by one in the dark. I support the increase in tags and hope that Chalk Creek has another opportunity to increase permits, not only to provide better management of deer populations, but also proving sportsmen with the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to harvest a lion.

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 personally hunt the cache unit. I am and avid Houndsmen big game hunter. Ive work closely with the collaring of lions and I am disappoint to say there are a couple bad apples that disregard the money and time that goes into getting this data. I personally caught and released a family of 3 with collars that were giving us great data. Days after Those bad apples who are hired by the northern Utah protective association, who is made up of farmers and ranchers. I have also been involved with collaring fawns on the cache. It's interesting to me that the data shows that a small percentage is lion kills. Of all the prey animals to dispatch a fawn then data shows the badger or badger hole to take a lot of them. I am 100% against the proposal and will stand with my fellow houndsmen. On this issue. I hunt lions all winter and have witnessed a decline in the area I hunt. Thanks

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 7:53 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 own High Uintahs taxidermy in Coalville Utah since 1993. We run a lot of volume and I see a lot of things year to year.
Obviously I'm not a biologist but I can see the need to decrease the mountain lion population in this specific area chalk Creek drainage

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 8:25 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 am in favor of the recommendations. I'm sure this doesn't mean much but running trail cameras for years on the cache I have always had a few night videos of cats and this year I'm get way more videos of cats and lots of day time videos. To me it says we have a bad cat problem. As you guys already know the deer heard on the cache is more or less non existent so please do what you can to help them in anyway possible.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 8:37 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?**

These last 4-6 years, we have noticed a drastic decrease in our deer populations. We have noticed a huge increase in the lion kill that we find on the mountain, and it's time that we do something about it. Let's get our deer herd back to where it once was!

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 8:43 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 support the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 9:04 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? No

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

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Support the increase in lion tags. I would like to see tags in the Morgan unit increased even more or even better moved to a harvest objective unit. Used to be lots of deer in this unit. Now there's are lions all over and no deer.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 9:43 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? Full support this to help the deer and elk in the area. We have hunted up north for years and have seen many cougars over the years, if we were seeing them there are too many.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 9:48 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? We need to increase tags for mtn lions. Our herds are struggling!

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

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? We need less mtn lions. Way to many in the hills hurting our elk and deer numbers

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 feel like the Kamas unit needs more attention, especially in the west hills west of Kamas. The mule deer and elk numbers are lower than in the past and cougars are everywhere. Just last fall we called in one opening morning of the archery with an elk call. And four more adults a few weeks later in a different drainage. I see that Kamas is not on the harvest objective list and feel it would be a great addition to those archery hunters that stumble upon a lion.

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? The deer herds are worse than I've ever seen them in 25 years of hunting northern Utah. I have personally seen more lions on the last 4 years than I ever have the other 20 years I've hunted. I have also seen more lion kills than I can count the last couple of years. If we do. It start controlling the lion population, my opinion is that the deer population will be much worse than it already is which is hard to believe. There are way less deer the last 2 years than I've ever seen. We need to do everything in our control to help the deer rebound. Thank you.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 10:01 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 would highly support this these animals are hurting our Elk and Deer herds! I have watched them actively Pursue Elk and Deer in the areas that I have hunted in the northern units. I hope that these comments will help thank you for your hard work.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 10:27 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? The deer in Northern Utah need any help we can give them to recover. Removing predators is is great way to help the heard. I support thiS proposal.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 20, 2020 10:32 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? Way too many predators and our deer population in absolutely in the tank!!!
Nothing like it was when I was a kid, my own kids will never be able to experience what I did as a young hunter unless we get on top of the predators!!!! Please mange them
Andrea Richins

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 21, 2020 2:14 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 support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I do support the recommendations with the exception of the taking of lions with GPS collars. I see a great opportunity to help livestock producers with their huge problem of depredating cougars and also an opportunity to help our decreasing deer herds. These cougars have reached a point where sportsman and ranchers are tired of feeding their livelihoods away. A cougar in a chronic area of reported damage or no deer, needs to be removed, collar or no collar.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 21, 2020 9:22 am

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? This is bs you guys are doing a mass cull of lions that is gonna throw our ecosystem off 4 years ago I could cut a lion track once a week this last year I cut one old lion track and caught only one lion yet there is this assumption by you guys that's there is lions everywhere I do not agree one bit with your proposals and joke of a management plan that even you guys don't follow

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 completely agree with the cougar unlimited quota and/or tag increases state wide. My family and I have hunted and guided in Utah for many years and have noticed a sharp decline in the deer herd over this time as well as a significant increase in visible signs of cougar activity in the areas where we hunt. Yes, predators are a necessary component of a wildlife ecosystem but only when managed properly. This measure needs to be seriously considered to mitigate the continued devastation of our deer herd. Thank you for your consideration.

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? Total amount of tags needs reduced, not just the tags per hunter/trapper.

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

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? The harvest of collard cats needs to stop especially on the Cache Unit where it seems the collar is more of a trophy than the actual taking of the animal. People do not understand how much money and time is involved to get a collar on these cats just to have them killed. There is so much data that could be collected that would benefit all species and it seems the lions are getting killed faster than we can collar them. Every lion killed whether it is road kill, harvested by hunter, an accidental catch by trapper and especially the lions taken by ranchers need to be added to the quota. Seems to be many unaccounted for. The additional tag to kill 2 cats is absurd! Females with sub adult kittens will be wiped out in a single winter season. I strongly disagree with all the changes suggested. It seems that the public RAC meetings are pointless. We bring up all these points and the counsel seems to care less every year. Feel free to contact me on these topics, even though I am sure this will never be read...

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? My name is Tanner Peugnet, I have been the wildlife manager at Ensign Ranches for approximately 10 years. I support and would recommend for the Chalk Creek and Kamas units that we keep the higher number of permits or even increase again the number of harvest allowed. In recent years we have been visually seeing more lions on the property(when hunting big game or working cattle or even driving roads). It seems that the number of lions we are able to harvest is a small number generally because the lions follow the migratory food source(deer) off of the property fairly early in the year. When given the opportunity to hunt mountain lions the quotas seem to have filled up far quicker than expected and may support a higher number of lions previously expected in the units as a whole? Some of the collar studies in our area show a moderate or fairly high mortality rate to our mule deer in our opinion and that is a very small sample of the resident deer on our unit. We feel as one of the larger land owners we successfully provide sufficient or more than sufficient and healthy habitat for the game that resides on the property and we strive to have a healthy and diverse population of trophy big game. We also feel that the mountain lion plays a bigger role than many may think in counteracting our goal to do so.

We feel like last season was a huge win for the unit as a whole (and the private land owners especially) with the increased number of lion tags and new HO and Split units in our region. and personally I feel moving forward the tags numbers could even be slightly increased. I think we are moving in the right direction.

Thank you!!

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?

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

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

I had a close encounter with a mountain lion in 2018 during my GS muzzleloader deer hunt.
I would have liked to have the option of using my deer tag to harvest the cat making it a win-win for the deer. Which they so badly need.
Paying an additional fee when applying for deer tags for this option would be helpful.
Much like Idahos option to kill a wolf while hunting deer.
This could be great for more revenue with little effect due to small number of sightings.
I'd like to see this implemented starting in 2021
And continue into the future

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 in support of limiting the number of permits per individual, but I do not believe it should be capped at 6,460. It makes me wonder how many persons that have 4 permits even harvest one animal, or those who even intend to harvest any at all. I am a hunter and also belong to a sheep ranching family.

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

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I believe that the quota should be unlimited. The deer and elk herds are already hurting enough, and lion sightings are becoming more and more frequent where I hunt. I have also seen more sheep kill on our family herd from lions. The lions are being chased too much without pulling them out of the life cycle.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 21, 2020 12:05 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? To many cats. Everytime we go out we find lion kills

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

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Tags need to be increased. Everytime i go out we find lion kills. They are killing live stock and deer in the masses

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 21, 2020 12:13 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 support the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? good on the bobcats

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

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? We have a sheep ranch on the East Canyon unit. I think we need and UMLIMITED objective until things get under control. I haven't seen the big bucks, have had predator losses from lions for 10-15 years now. Our East Canyon used to have 5000 deer and now we just don't see the deer. More elk and few deer. Sad to see the lions and coyotes wiping out the trophy deer and my lambs. I would sure love to see some common sense in the approach. Lions are too plentiful to balance out a healthy deer herd. I haven't seen a 40" buck for years now. We used to always have 2 or 3 on our ranch ever year. The big genetics are still there, but the lions wipe them out.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 21, 2020 12:35 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 continue to have calves missing and I find them eaten later on. I also have many different lions on cameras through out our ranch with a large decrease in deer numbers where these lions are present in the high country. Between leased and personal property the area is over 15k acres. They are starting to get down into my cattle at night in the valley floors. All of this is effecting wildlife feeding patterns and growth. I would like an increase in tags for the East canyon unit to 15 tags

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 21, 2020 1:07 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 support the proposals

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 21, 2020 1:15 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 RAC members,

My name is Cory Huntsman, I am writing this letter on behalf of the Utah Houndsmen Association. We understand the urgent need to work together towards a win/win solution in order to help the recovery of our states suffering deer herds. As houndsmen we recognize that predator populations lag that of their prey and currently the deer numbers have dramatically reduced while lion numbers have remained somewhat consistent. A reduction in these predator numbers will assist in a quicker deer recovery which will translate into healthy lion populations. While the majority of our members are deer hunters too we as well desire to have healthy herd numbers and understand a balance between the predator/prey relationship is required in order to have the best experience in both deer and lion hunting opportunities. With that being said, the UHA supports the overall Division's cougar proposal with a few suggestions that may assist in achieving the goal of reducing lion populations in focused areas quicker. This will aid in a faster recovery of deer population while maintaining the overall respect that this majestic animal deserves. Our membership look forward to the day in which the deer herds return and the focus switches from recovering these herds to recovering lion populations. It is recognized that significant increases in lion harvests could not be accomplished with out the utilization of the skills our membership possess. These suggestions include:

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

Suggestions on how to focus the hound hunter into the specific area that are in need of immediate lion population reductions.

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.

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 majestic 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.

The next discussion topic is more of a suggestion for the division, board and RAC's to consider more than opposition to a recommendation. There

are 27 units that are either in the Deer or Sheep Predator Management plan this year. If our top concern is getting the cougar numbers in check on our Mule Deer Predator Management units then it seems imperative that we strategically create increased opportunities for these units over other units. One easy way to ensure a strategic plan to assist these units is to take our 8 Harvest Objective units not in a predator management program & convert them into Split Units. The split units do not open to Harvest Objective until February 27th. This strategy would encourage and create opportunity for outfitters and hound hunters to hunt open unlimited units that are in the Mule Deer Predator Management Plan and in need of additional harvest for the first four months of the season (November-February 22).

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.

Thank you for your consideration and thank you for your service on the RAC,
Cory Huntsman
Utah Houndsmen Association - President
801-875-5367

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 decrease or to have 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 2:23 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? There are far more Cougars in northern Utah than there should be. These predators continue to decimate sheep, goat deer and other species. There should be unlimited take until we get them back under an acceptable number. This can best be determined and measured by deer population.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 21, 2020 2:24 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 Deblois: I am neutral on the proposals

Do you have any additional comments about these proposals? None.

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

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I support the additional cougar tags and the opportunity to harvest 2 cougars. I would fully support a statewide unlimited quota until we can re-establish healthy and abundant mule deer herds. I am a 5th generation sheep rancher and hunter and have seen what the increase in cougars has done to our sheep herd and mule deer herd on our ranch in Morgan and Summit county. Mule deer numbers are the worst we have seen in decades and it can largely be attributed to cougars. I find that wildlife and agriculture mirror each other, and when we see increases in cougar depredation on sheep, it relates to mule deer as well. Frankly, it is my opinion that there should be unlimited tags and unlimited quota until we get the predators in check.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 21, 2020 3:26 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 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? Please tell me why it is feasible to spend thousands of dollars in government money and resources placing collars on lions just to have them killed within 48 hrs of placing them. Sometimes they live a month. But what's the purpose of doing the study if that dont live long enough to study their behavior. We live in a location where a certain individual makes it a point to kill the collared cats and he will tell you that. Now your wanting to make it so you could possibly kill 2 lions in a season. I guarentee you we will have no collared ones left after him and all his friends have killed them. Heck we have gps evidence that he even killed a mother with kittens and we presented that to local law enforcement and nothing was done about it. He has no ethics and we would like to see our hard work protected. Yes I have been helping tree the lions for the biologist to collar them. And I see all the time, effort, and money. At least let us get some data from the study.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 21, 2020 5:00 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? Collared cats need to be protected and the 2 limit is a terrible idea and needs to remain at 1 cougar per tag.

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 support the proposals to a point. I live in Morgan and Hunt mule deer in both Morgan and Chalk Creek. I've noticed over the big declines in total deer numbers and in mature deer both on public land and private ranches. Please do not reduce the tags in the Morgan area. We have several cats on the 3500 acres of the Richville Range, bordering Hardscrabble. This is a very important mule deer wintering area and every year they are killed by the lions. Same on Grass Valley CWMU & the other Chalk Creek ranches/CWMUs.
Please keep the cougar tags high for a few seasons to give our mule deer a chance.
Thank you,
Ryan Pace

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 21, 2020 11:14 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? I agree with the UHA and should have a split unit on all units for lions

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 21, 2020 11:27 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
July 22, 2020 5:39 am

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
July 22, 2020 7:17 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? Would like to see 5 bobcat tags!

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

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Would like to see the cougars with the gps collars on not be harvested until after the study.
Would like to see the cache unit not have an unlimited amount of tags.
Only one cougar tag per persona in stead of two.

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 support the management plan and appreciate the state offering fall opportunity to harvest a cougar, spot and stalk. This will allow people without hounds opportunity to take a cougar. We should always look for new ways to provide opportunity where it biologically makes sense.

I encourage the RAC to be very mindful of predator populations. I feel as though the RAC needs to support recommendations through science and information from state biologists. Predators always encourage extremist, sometimes radical viewpoints from small minority groups. Let's be sensible and listen to science from our state biologists.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 22, 2020 8:59 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.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 22, 2020 12:02 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?** Too many lions, not enough deer

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 22, 2020 12:35 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 22, 2020 1:46 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?

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. Significant time, cost, and energy is involved in capturing these animals to collect sufficient research data. Not only are many volunteer houndsmen across Utah putting forth immense effort, cost, time, and risk to help us collar and study these animals, but UDWR employees are also lending their time, vehicles, and on-the-ground support. I believe that failure to protect these study animals from harvest during the ongoing capture and research effort permits a waste of our limited time and public resources. If a state agency is devoting a significant amount of funding to support large-scale research for a managed game species, the agency should mandate that the animals involved in said study will be protected from take while the capture and monitoring efforts are ongoing. This will help ensure the success of the research. That is, however, unless the harvest survival rate of these animals is a specified target objective of the study. In this case, the harvest survival of adult cougars in Utah is not a target goal of the study. My goals, as laid out by USU and UDWR, are to understand the emigration and immigration, seasonal migration patterns, reproductive capacity, predation behavior, and the competitive interactions with scavenging black bears of Utah's mountain lions. I cannot address these goals in a statistically significant way to provide data to UDWR without having a sufficient sample of study animals in all study sites. Due to the high harvest pressure on the major study regions, failure to protect collared study animals from harvest will drastically reduce our ability to maintain a sufficient number of operational collars on the ground for research. With considerable effort, we were able to collar 38 female cougars over the past two winter capture seasons. However, only 17 of the 38 (45%) are still alive and contributing to the study. We have been unable to ever reach our goal of having 30 female cougars collared at one time. This goal was set to provide us with sufficient high-quality data for statistically rigorous analysis and balanced sampling over the three regions of the study. It is clear that capturing and collaring cougars for research is a significant challenge, and we are working extremely hard to keep this viable sample size.

Thus, I encourage the Wildlife Board 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 we can collect sufficient high-quality data to address the research goals that UDWR and USU have agreed upon. Collecting sufficient data is vital to understanding cougar ecology in the state more thoroughly, which will aid in managing cougars throughout Utah at a healthy, sustainable, and biologically-appropriate level for years to come.

I also oppose the proposed change in bag limit from 1 to 2 cougars per person. The changes already in place from the newly-enacted Predator

Management Policies will allow for unrestricted year-round harvest of lions from 25 units. Separately, UDWR has proposed an increase in harvest tags for many other units of the state. Together, these measures will inevitably cause a vast increase in cougar harvest across the state, with the goal of reducing cougar densities. However, increasing the cougar bag limit from 1 to 2 cougars per person is an unnecessary step to achieve these goals of increased harvest, and aggressive overharvest can cause lasting damage to these populations. This would not only destroy the natural and God-given predator-prey balance from our wild lands, but also damage the future opportunity for hound hunters to sustainably hunt and enjoy their chosen sport. Research has shown that aggressive harvest of predators is not likely to reduce densities of predators in populations where extensive immigration occurs, and we do not yet have the data to support making these aggressive changes at this time. In previous studies, aggressive harvest has been linked to a shift in predator demographics to younger age classes (which are more likely to cause human-wildlife conflict), increased immigration as territories open, and higher abundance in a given management space due to smaller individual home ranges. These unintended results would clearly fail to achieve the goals of the policy. Since we do not yet have enough data about Utah cougar's immigration and emigration rates, ignoring the potential source-sink population dynamics of cougars in Utah will render predator control ineffective overall, likely with unintended consequences.

Lastly, 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 spots. 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.

Thank you for considering these requests and comments.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 22, 2020 1:48 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?

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. Significant time, cost, and energy is involved in capturing these animals to collect sufficient research data. Not only are many volunteer houndsmen across Utah putting forth immense effort, cost, time, and risk to help us collar and study these animals, but UDWR employees are also lending their time, vehicles, and on-the-ground support. I believe that failure to protect these study animals from harvest during the ongoing capture and research effort permits a waste of our limited time and public resources. If a state agency is devoting a significant amount of funding to support large-scale research for a managed game species, the agency should mandate that the animals involved in said study will be protected from take while the capture and monitoring efforts are ongoing. This will help ensure the success of the research. That is, however, unless the harvest survival rate of these animals is a specified target objective of the study. In this case, the harvest survival of adult cougars in Utah is not a target goal of the study. My goals, as laid out by USU and UDWR, are to understand the emigration and immigration, seasonal migration patterns, reproductive capacity, predation behavior, and the competitive interactions with scavenging black bears of Utah's mountain lions. I cannot address these goals in a statistically significant way to provide data to UDWR without having a sufficient sample of study animals in all study sites. Due to the high harvest pressure on the major study regions, failure to protect collared study animals from harvest will drastically reduce our ability to maintain a sufficient number of operational collars on the ground for research. With considerable effort, we were able to collar 38 female cougars over the past two winter capture seasons. However, only 17 of the 38 (45%) are still alive and contributing to the study. We have been unable to ever reach our goal of having 30 female cougars collared at one time. This goal was set to provide us with sufficient high-quality data for statistically rigorous analysis and balanced sampling over the three regions of the study. It is clear that capturing and collaring cougars for research is a significant challenge, and we are working extremely hard to keep this viable sample size.

Thus, I encourage the Wildlife Board 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 we can collect sufficient high-quality data to address the research goals that UDWR and USU have agreed upon. Collecting sufficient data is vital to understanding cougar ecology in the state more thoroughly, which will aid in managing cougars throughout Utah at a healthy, sustainable, and biologically-appropriate level for years to come.

I also oppose the proposed change in bag limit from 1 to 2 cougars per person. The changes already in place from the newly-enacted Predator

Management Policies will allow for unrestricted year-round harvest of lions from 25 units. Separately, UDWR has proposed an increase in harvest tags for many other units of the state. Together, these measures will inevitably cause a vast increase in cougar harvest across the state, with the goal of reducing cougar densities. However, increasing the cougar bag limit from 1 to 2 cougars per person is an unnecessary step to achieve these goals of increased harvest, and aggressive overharvest can cause lasting damage to these populations. This would not only destroy the natural and God-given predator-prey balance from our wild lands, but also damage the future opportunity for hound hunters to sustainably hunt and enjoy their chosen sport. Research has shown that aggressive harvest of predators is not likely to reduce densities of predators in populations where extensive immigration occurs, and we do not yet have the data to support making these aggressive changes at this time. In previous studies, aggressive harvest has been linked to a shift in predator demographics to younger age classes (which are more likely to cause human-wildlife conflict), increased immigration as territories open, and higher abundance in a given management space due to smaller individual home ranges. These unintended results would clearly fail to achieve the goals of the policy. Since we do not yet have enough data about Utah cougar's immigration and emigration rates, ignoring the potential source-sink population dynamics of cougars in Utah will render predator control ineffective overall, likely with unintended consequences.

Lastly, 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 spots. 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.

Thank you for considering these requests and comments.

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?

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.

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? My #1 opposition is we need to protect the collared cougars from sportsman harvest, there is just too much to be learned besides just date and location of harvest. Also, I've been a houndsman for 40 years on the Cache unit, during that time I've been hearing we need to reduce cougar populations until the deer herd meets management objectives. Yet despite the extraordinary number of cougar taken annually, our deer herd hasn't significantly improved, Why??

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 22, 2020 9:31 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 Prevedel and Regional Advisory Council members,

The Mountain Lion Foundation, a national nonprofit organization, provides the following comments on cougar hunting in Utah for the 2020-21 season.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR)'s cougar hunting recommendations for the 2020-21 season are overly aggressive and not supported by current scientific fact. We urge you to advise the Utah Wildlife Board to suspend or significantly reduce the hunting of cougars, especially females, in Utah.

- Hunting cougars does not lead to management objectives of increasing deer and elk numbers.
- Predator management plans that allow for unlimited take of cougars are not sustainable.
- Allowing hunters to take two cougars perpetuates cougar persecution and is unethical.
- Female cougars contribute disproportionately to the population and should not be hunted.
- Cougar hunting season should be delayed to December 1st of each year 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. In fact, it has been shown to increase conflicts with humans and livestock.
- Excessive quotas such as the ones recommended by DWR are not supported by the majority of Utah's residents, as demonstrated by public comment. This includes conservation groups and houndsmen.
- We commend the DWR for moving to protect collared cougars.

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 the researchers compared this data to cougar data from other state and federal agencies where cougar hunting is permitted. Testing 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 of the desired 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, drought) 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.

We urge you to advise the Utah Wildlife Board that a reduction in deer numbers is likely a proximate cause of the harsh winter and not due to increased cougar predation. Advise the Board not to implement predator management plans with unlimited quotas which persecute cougars. Hunting cougars year-round without limits 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 urge you to advise the Wildlife Board 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 ask you to advise the Utah Wildlife Board to delay any hunting season to December 1st of each year.

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.⁵

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 Central RAC members consider the following concerns and urge the Utah Wildlife Board to make the changes below:

- Repeal the spot-and-stalk hunt (August 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020) implemented by Director Fowlks.
- Stop current year-round predator management plans with unlimited take 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.
- 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.
- Limit the take of collared cougars.

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

Respectfully,

Diana Lakeland, M.S.
State Policy Associate

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Debra Chase
CEO
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These comments will be submitted via email to the Northern RAC members
as well.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 22, 2020 9:33 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

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations?

After learning about the proposed changes to the cougar RAC proposal, I have some concerns and therefore oppose the following changes:

I oppose the proposal to change the season bag limit from one cougar per person to two cougars. I feel that this change encourages increased pursuit and harvest of cougars in already heavily hunted units, especially the north and eastern units. These units will already be directly impacted by the new unlimited harvest allowance of the predator management policy, and these units exceeded their harvest objective goals in prior years. Increasing the per-person limit to two cougars seems unnecessary to achieve cougar management goals. In combination with the drastic changes already set in place by the new Predator Management Policy, I feel that increasing the bag limit will negatively impact social structure/stability of local populations that already experience heavy hunting and pursuit pressure. Studies show that instead of reducing cougar density as intended, heavy hunting pressure increases cougar immigration and recruitment in the local populations, shift population structure to younger animals (which we know are more likely to cause human-wildlife conflicts), and allow for higher densities of individuals with smaller home ranges - exactly opposite of the intended effect. Additionally, as far as I'm aware, UDWR lacks sufficient data on any of these hunt units to support the claim that cougar populations are limiting deer abundance, so until the UDWR has collected sufficient data to determine cougar demographic parameters and source-sink patterns in local populations, aggressive harvest seems unwarranted and I feel it will trigger unexpected consequences to population structure and stability.

I'm an ecology graduate student at USU working with collared animals and as a result, I understand the importance of capturing and maintaining a viable sample of study individuals from which to collect data to address research objectives. As a student at USU, I'm also aware of the ongoing Utah cougar study being conducted by USU, UDWR, and USDA, which involves collaring and monitoring cougars across the state. Therefore, I request that take of collared cougars from any unit currently in the USU-UDWR cougar study be prohibited by law and be prosecutable as a wildlife violation. Considering the time, cost, and energy involved in capturing animals (especially mammalian predators) and trying to collect sufficient data from their collars, I feel the UDWR's failure to protect these study animals from harvest is counterproductive to anyone involved in these studies, and unless this is specifically spelled out by law, hunters will continue to take these animals. If the UDWR is devoting state funding to support a large-scale research study for any managed game species, it seems reasonable that it should mandate that the animals involved in said study will be protected from take while the capture and monitoring efforts are ongoing.

Finally, I oppose the removal of the wording "or any cougar accompanied by an adult". I worry that as a result, older juveniles who still rely on an adult female for food and guidance will be put at risk. Instead, I propose the

wording be changed to "or any kitten or subadult cougar accompanied by an adult". Juvenile cougars can be identified even after they've lost their spots, and identification keys could easily be incorporated into an orientation course so hunters can determine if a treed cougar is a kitten/juvenile and therefore protected from harvest.

Thanks for your time,
-Aimee Van Tatenhove

Form Name:
Submission Time:

July/August 2020 RAC & Board Feedback Form
July 22, 2020 11:13 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? 3 tags to give more options to others.

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

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? Well let's just say if you're in the hills as much as me you would see it's not working! Upping tag numbers has done nothing in this region yet you still see that as being the answer so just for your info I have counted 28 deer hit so far from south Weber to Peterson exit since May 1 till now if you want to make a difference in our herds work on getting wildlife crossings we're they are needed

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? don't shorten the season cut the number of tags each person can get. you lost money the last time you put a cap on tags, there was no reason to by a furbearer license when no tags available.

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

Do you have any additional comments about the recommendations? I have hunted lion for over fifty years and what they want to do now, I feel has no Data or scientific to back what they want to do.I also feel that the sportsmen have little to no say in what is proposed by the D.W.R it's a waist of time to go to Meetings last year the northern region and they voted unanimous to leave east canyon a draw no split season, and what did we end up with split. I oppose the proposals !!
