

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

**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?** Please make for more Bobcats and less Cougars

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

**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?** I live in Fruitland. I spend a lot of time on the wildcat wma as well as other surrounding areas. The amount of mule deer carcasses I see from the Cougars in the area is extremely high. I am in favor of drastically reducing the Cougar population state wide. Our big game herds cannot handle the increase in predators at the same time they are losing winter grounds. If we do not get a handle on the problem, I fear what will become

**Which best describes your position regarding the Strawberry River WMA Habitat Management Plan?** Strongly agree

**Do you have any additional comments about the Strawberry River WMA Habitat Management Plan?** I love what you guys are doing on the strawberry river wma. My fear is you are planning to push the road all the way through to soldier creek. This would be a major mistake in my opinion. That area is essential to the big game in the area for their winter grounds as well as the fishing. Please leave it a partial walk-in only. I would not be in favor of a road connecting to soldier creek as it would turn the area into a highway with recreationalists. Please leave it somewhat primitive. That is the beautiful thing about that wma. I also own property at the top of Current Creek Mountain and would be more than willing to grant access from up above if needed.

<b>Which best describes your position regarding the 2021–22 furbearer recommendations?</b>	Somewhat disagree
<b>Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?</b>	Too many permits for bobcat Not many left in North Eastern Utah and to many people trapping And 1000 times that with dogs Make it draw like deer with no pursuit at all to many hounds in uintah basin
<b>Which best describes your position regarding the 2021–22 cougar recommendations?</b>	Strongly disagree
<b>Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?</b>	No pursuit tags at all to many hounds in uintah basin Make it draw like deer hunt for tags way too many people in field Not enough adult male lions Make harvest male only to many women and children getting killed Hunting pressure is insane in uintah basin ,hunted last 5 years can't even find a male lion to run .because I have ethics will not run a female We need limited entry unit back in book cliffs to limited the amount of hunters .... No pursuit tags forbear or lion period end of sentence. This is from frustration of having tag soup because to many pursuit idiots
<b>Which best describes your position regarding the Strawberry River WMA Habitat Management Plan?</b>	Strongly disagree
<b>Do you have any additional comments about the Strawberry River WMA Habitat Management Plan?</b>	Make strawberry into smaller units to draw for hunters Less tags for land owners if they won't let common man hunt don't give no tags to them

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

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**Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?** I strongly disagree with the furbearer/ bobcat. I do not support the recommendation to remove the permit cap for bobcats as this opens the door for potential overharvest. I would also recommend that the number of bobcat permits be reduced to 2.

I also recommend that out-of-state trappers be required to purchase a permit for any trapping in Utah whatsoever.

Thank you.

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

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

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

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

1. Not adding the Beaver East unit to predator management status.
  - a. We would further recommend not adding any more units to predator management status until the DWR establishes clear criteria for when a unit enters and exits predator management status. The public should also be given opportunities to provide feedback as these criteria are created. And,
- ...  
  
2. That hunters are not permitted to kill any collared cougars so that researchers can accurately study cougars in Utah without interference.

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your time.