

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Banning cougar trapping is a public safety concern
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 12:14:47 PM

From: KATHRYN FEE [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 6:21 PM
To: Lopez, Tirzio, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Banning cougar trapping is a public safety concern

Banning this is a public safety concern

Please consider my stance on trapping cougar, they have no natural predators other than humans should there numbers remain unchecked you will begin to see an unbalance which increases the risk of cougar attacks on humans this has been scientifically proven in places like Culp Creek Oregon.

CULP CREEK, Ore. (AP) -- Cougar numbers continue to increase since voters approved a 1994 measure that banned the use of dogs to hunt the big cats, and their encroaching population is creating problems. Washington voters approved the same ban last year and state Department of Fish and Wildlife officials fear the same overpopulation problem may occur in this state. But because Oregon's law was passed two years earlier, the population changes there have been easier to measure.

The number of cougars taken by hunters has fallen from a high of 187 in 1992 to 47 in 1996, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Pete Janelli, 80, who farms 150 acres near this town east of Cottage Grove, says he lost four goats to cougars last year, and he lost his quarterhorse in January.

"She was down, just about dead when we found her," Janelli said. "We had to shoot her because she was in such misery."

The federal Animal Damage Control officer, Jack Spencer, examined the dead mare and confirmed it had been attacked by a cougar. He wrote in his report that, based on the size of the cougar's tracks, it is one of the largest cats he's encountered.

Since then, Janelli has had hunters and dogs on his property, which is allowed after livestock damage. But they had no success.

He believes farmers ought to be able to call in the hounds when they spot a cougar, and not have to wait until they lose livestock.

"I'm not saying go out and butcher them all, you know," he said. "It's their country, you really can't blame them. But we've got to get some control on them."

In Lane County, the number of people calling with damage complaints or alleged cougar sightings has risen from perhaps four a year in the 1980s to an average of 115 per year between 1994 and 1996, said Bill Castillo, a district wildlife biologist.

"We get calls every week, sometimes more than one a day," Castillo said.

People opposed to hunting cougars say statistics on cougar sightings are seldom verified and claim some cases may be manufactured by hunting organizations.

"We think the numbers and the paperwork are being shuffled in a way that makes it look much worse than it is," said Brooks Fahy, executive director of the Predator Defense Institute in Eugene.

"We don't think much has changed. Cougars don't reproduce that fast."

No one has ever been killed by a cougar in Oregon and Castillo said he can verify only one attack on a human. But the Fish and Wildlife Department office in Springfield has received calls of cougars lying in people's driveways in the middle of the day, climbing on decks and peering into windows.

"It's behavior we never heard of in the past," Castillo said.

Castillo believes the population increase is such that some parts of the state have reached the animal's "carrying capacity." With territorial adult cougars occupying forested habitat, younger cats have been forced to the Willamette Valley floor.

"Now we have cougars and people trying to live in the same area, and that has created lots of conflict," Castillo said. "These cats are having kittens, and those kittens are growing up with the sights, sounds and smells of humans."

Please consider my opposition to the ban on cougar trapping. We need to keep a balance. Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it.

Banning this is a public safety concern.

Cougars have attacked over 125 people in North America and there numbers are on the rise due to hunting & trapping restrictions. Cougars have killed over 2 dozen people in the last century. Banning trapping will result in greater numbers of cougars increasing the risk of predation on humans and you will have blood on your hands. Wild animals do not discriminate by banning your putting all of us at greater risk of attack simply by increasing their numbers. Statistics show overpopulation of cougars has resulted in them moving closer to big cities such as downtown Chicago for instance, when there are too many no one will be safe if the public doesn't have a right to defend themselves because people like you protected the wild animal and not them. Tell that to the 8 year old Colorado boy attacked and bit on the head just a few weeks ago, by banning you are telling all the people that have been attacked you care more about the animal than a human life. Think carefully a trapper could save your life.

"We think the numbers and the paperwork are being shuffled in a way that makes it look much worse than it is," said Brooks Fahy, executive director of the Predator Defense Institute in Eugene.

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Please consider my opposition to the ban on cougar trapping. We need to keep a balance. Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it.

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Bear and Cougar meeting.
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 7:19:47 AM

Please see comments below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2019 7:54 AM
To: Jameson Peschel
Subject: Re: [EXT] Bear and Cougar meeting.

Mr. Peschel:

Thank you for your input. Hearing from all constituents is exactly why we "open" the rules for public comment. Your preference to keep the bear and cougar rules unchanged and in particular to retain (without further restriction) the use of dogs is duly noted. (Of note, we used to own a blue tick, so I have a special appreciation for hounds.)

I hope you continue to enjoy your hunting and trapping experiences in New Mexico.

V/R,
David Soules

From: Jameson Peschel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2019 7:07 AM
To: Joanna.Prokop@state.nm.us; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bear and Cougar meeting.

I am a nonresident hunter and cannot attend the meeting on bear and cougar rule changes. I hunt NM 6-8 times a year. I am opposed to any changes to bear and cougar hunting and trapping. I am especially opposed to any changes that would eliminate or restrict the use of dogs. Thank you for your time.

Jameson Peschel

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Bear and Cougar meeting.
Date: Wednesday, August 07, 2019 1:42:07 PM

From: Jameson Peschel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2019 7:07 AM
To: Joanna.Prokop@state.nm.us; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bear and Cougar meeting.

I am a nonresident hunter and cannot attend the meeting on bear and cougar rule changes. I hunt NM 6-8 times a year. I am opposed to any changes to bear and cougar hunting and trapping. I am especially opposed to any changes that would eliminate or restrict the use of dogs. Thank you for your time.

Jameson Peschel

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Bear comments from Sierra Club, Animal Protection of NM, WildEarth Guardians
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 6:04:23 AM
Attachments: [Bear rules comment letter SC WEG APNM final.docx](#)

From: Mary Katherine Ray [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 3:38 PM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bear comments from Sierra Club, Animal Protection of NM, WildEarth Guardians

Hello Commissioner Bates,

Please accept these comments about Black Bear management from the Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club, Animal Protection of NM and WildEarth Guardians. On their behalf, I would love to have a conversation about the bear situation after you've had a chance to look these over. I would not be surprised if your reading assignments are getting backlogged, but if you'd like to set a time to speak on the phone, that would be wonderful and appreciated.

Sincerely,
Mary Katherine Ray

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Bear comments from Sierra Club, Animal Protection of NM, WildEarth Guardians
Date: Monday, September 16, 2019 10:17:21 AM
Attachments: [Bear rules comment letter SC WEG APNM final.docx](#)

From: Mary Katherine Ray [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 9, 2019 3:37 PM
To: Lopez, Tirzio, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bear comments from Sierra Club, Animal Protection of NM, WildEarth Guardians

Hello Commissioner Lopez,

Please accept these comments about Black Bear management from the Rio Grande Chapter Sierra Club, Animal Protection of NM and WildEarth Guardians. On their behalf, I would love to have a conversation about the bear situation after you've had a chance to look these over. I would not be surprised if your reading assignments are getting backlogged, but if you'd like to set a time to speak on the phone, that would be wonderful and appreciated.

Sincerely,
Mary Katherine Ray

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Bear killings
Date: Saturday, August 31, 2019 3:14:55 PM

From: Laura Fradette [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 1:00 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bear killings

Dear Ms. Prukop, I am concerned that too many bear sows are being killed statewide in the hunt. The sow limit is now set at 318, yet, for the last four years, the actual harvest averages about 180 not counting depredation deaths. The Game department is proposing no changes for bear for the next four years. This will be a great loss to our state. Please consider changing the limit to 100 sows including depredation.

Thank you,
Laura Fradette



Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Bear limits
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:44:43 AM

From: Laura Fradette [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 1:04 PM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bear limits

Dear Mr. Bates,

Too many bear sows are being killed statewide in the hunt. The sow limit is now set at 318, yet, for the last four years, the actual harvest averages about 180 not counting depredation deaths. The Game department is proposing no changes for bear for the next four years. Please limit the kill to 100 including depredation . This would be a terrible loss for the bear population and our state.

Thank you,
Laura Fradette



Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Bear limits
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 11:46:11 AM

Stewart Liley, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

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-----Original Message-----

From: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 3:54 PM
To: Liley, Stewart, DGF
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Bear limits

From: Laura Fradette [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 1:02 PM
To: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bear limits

Dear Commissioner,

Too many bear sows are being killed statewide in the hunt. The sow limit is now set at 318, yet, for the last four years, the actual harvest averages about 180 not counting depredation deaths. The Game department is proposing no changes for bear for the next four years. Please limit the kills to 100 including depredation. This would be a terrible loss for the bears and our state.

Thank you,
Laura Fradette

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Bear Quotas and Cougar Trapping Ban
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:47:10 AM

From: Adam Sapp [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 10:39 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bear Quotas and Cougar Trapping Ban

Ladies and Gentlemen of the State Game Commission,

I'd like to start by thanking you for your service in protecting and managing the wildlife and wild places of New Mexico on behalf of its residents, and continuing to support sustainable and ethical use of its wildlife resources.

Now to the point.

First, I would like to express my opposition to the proposed ban on cougar trapping, as I feel it is not motivated from a scientific basis or management scheme, but instead motivated by a short sighted emotional argument that fails to maturely address the issue of cougar management as a part of wildlife management as a whole. The only purpose that I can see for this ban is to chip at the rights of NM hunters and trappers for the sake of political correctness?

Second I would like to express my opposition to a similar proposal from the New Mexico Bear Watch group members to lower the Sow mortality quota based on their distrust of the science based management plan put forth by the game and fish department regarding black bears. As a bear hunter I count on this hunt as an ethical source of food for me my family, especially in years when I'm not fortunate enough to draw, or harvest other big game. I support reasonable harvest quotas based on sound scientific population estimation techniques - not based on the emotional burden of people who either don't understand where food comes from or think they are justified in enforcing their values on others.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,
Adam Sapp

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Bear Quotas and Cougar Trapping Ban
Date: Friday, September 20, 2019 12:54:19 PM

From: Adam Sapp [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 10:39 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bear Quotas and Cougar Trapping Ban

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Thank you for your time and your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,
Adam Sapp

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] bear sow protection
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:45:26 AM

From: pat manaster [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 8:42 AM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] bear sow protection

Please use your power to make sure not too many bear sows are killed. I am not against hunting but am concerned that too many may be killed. Perhaps under 100 would be reasonable. I once saw a huge cinnamon-colored black bear cross the road at the Sandia ski lift area when driving through. That was exciting!! So I don't want to lose the species in the future. How our children will love seeing a bear as I did!! Thanks for listening to my concern. Ms. Pat Manaster [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] bear sow protection
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019 7:59:53 AM

From: pat manaster [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 8:42 AM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] bear sow protection

Please use your power to make sure not too many bear sows are killed. I am not against hunting but am concerned that too many may be killed. Perhaps under 100 would be reasonable. I once saw a huge cinnamon-colored black bear cross the road at the Sandia ski lift area when driving through. That was exciting!! So I don't want to lose the species in the future. How our children will love seeing a bear as I did!! Thanks for listening to my concern. Ms. Pat Manaster [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] bears need protection
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:59:48 AM

From: Richard Desjardins [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 5:29 PM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] bears need protection

Good afternoon. Although 2019 has been a relatively good year for moisture, we have had a number of dry seasons in the recent past that have resulted in large numbers of bears being removed and destroyed. This was, of course, under an old administration. I live in the East Mountains, and am very concerned that the wild creatures be allowed to co-exist with the human inhabitants. I feel strongly that female bears in particular need protection so that the population can be restored and thrive. Nobody eats bear meat; there really is no rational or good reason at present to hunt them down and kill them. Please do your utmost to protect the bears moving forward, and reduce the hunting numbers currently allowed. I know I have observed far fewer signs this year and last of bear activity, though this used to be common. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jill Desjardins

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] bears need your help please
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:27:25 AM

Please see email thread below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 9:11 PM
To: Richard Desjardins
Subject: Re: [EXT] bears need your help please

Hello Jill:

Thank you for your input. I wholeheartedly agree that wild creatures need to be allowed to co-exist with human inhabitants. I would disagree with one of your comments. Some people very definitely do eat bear meat. I would also point out that very few bears have been taken by hunters in the Sandias over the last decade. There are far more (700%) that have died due to depredation and "hit by car" incidents.

V/R,
David Soules

From: Richard Desjardins [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 5:31 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] bears need your help please

Good afternoon. Although 2019 has been a relatively good year for moisture, we have had a number of dry seasons in the recent past that have resulted in large numbers of bears being removed and destroyed. This was, of course, under an old administration. I live in the East Mountains, and am very concerned that the wild creatures be allowed to co-exist with the human inhabitants. I feel strongly that female bears in particular need protection so that the population can be restored and thrive. Nobody eats bear meat; there really is no rational or good reason at present to hunt them down and kill them. Please do your utmost to protect the bears moving forward, and reduce the hunting numbers currently allowed. I know I have observed far fewer signs this year and last of bear activity, though this used to be common. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jill Desjardins

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Bears!
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:45:23 AM

Please see comments below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 2:32 PM
To: Bing LeRoy
Subject: Re: [EXT] Bears!

Dear Mr. Bing:

Thank you for your email and your concern regarding bears. I appreciate the many things that Sandia Mountain Bear Watch is doing on behalf of bears, in particular their efforts to educate the public about proper trash containers and other means to limit bear and human encounter that could result in depredation losses. With regard to the Sandias, you might be interested to know that in the last 8 years there have been 3 bears killed by hunters, while 7 have been removed (meaning loss of life) for depredation, and 14 have died as a result of being hit by cars or "other" causes.

Thanks again for your interest and concern,
David

From: Bing LeRoy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 11:00 AM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bears!

Welcome to your position as a member of the Game Commission!
Please support lowering the limit of sows to be killed (including predation) to less than 100. I feel the figures of Sandia Mountain Bear Watch are the most reliable. They are gathered from those who have resided in the area for many years, and have close contact with the wildlife. They have the opportunity to make very accurate observations, and can make observations in daily real life.

They have nothing to gain except the best practices, protection and control of the bears and other wildlife.

Sincerely,

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Bears
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:44:23 AM

From: Gwen Peterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 7:53 PM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bears

Dear Mr. Bates,

The bears are such an important part of the Sandia/Manzano ecology. Please do everything possible to help them recover and rebound. Thank you .

Gwen Peterson, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Bears
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:42:18 AM

From: Bing LeRoy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 10:58 AM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bears

Welcome to your position as a member of the Game Commission!

Please support lowering the limit of sows to be killed (including predation) to less than 100. I feel the figures of Sandia Mountain Bear Watch are the most reliable. They are gathered from those who have resided in the area for many years, and have close contact with the wildlife. They have the opportunity to make very accurate observations, and can make observations in daily real life.

They have nothing to gain except the best practices, protection and control of the bears and other wildlife.

Sincerely.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Bears
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:46:00 AM

Please see comments below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 6:54 AM
To: Gwen Peterson
Subject: Re: [EXT] Bears

Hello Ms. Peterson:

Thank you for your concern. I will certainly strive to ensure that the bear population in the Sandias remains healthy.

Best regards,
David

From: Gwen Peterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 7:55 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bears

Dear Mr. Soules,

The bears are such an important part of the Sandia/Manzano ecology. Please do everything possible to help them recover and rebound.

Thank you. Gwen Peterson, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Bears
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 11:46:02 AM

Stewart Liley, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

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-----Original Message-----

From: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:04 PM
To: Liley, Stewart, DGF
Subject: FW: [EXT] Bears

From: Gwen Peterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 7:52 PM
To: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bears

Dear Mr. Salazar,

The bears are an important part of the Sandia/Manzano ecology. Please do everything possible to help preserve them and help them to rebound. Thank you.

Gwen Peterson, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Bears
Date: Saturday, August 31, 2019 3:13:08 PM

From: Gwen Peterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 7:50 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bears

Dear Ms. Prukop,

The bears are an important part of the Sandia/Manzano ecology. Please do everything possible to preserve them and help them to rebound. Thank you.

Gwen Peterson, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Cougar trapping
Date: Monday, September 09, 2019 9:01:57 PM

From: KATHRYN FEE [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 5:58 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Cougar trapping

Please consider my stance on trapping cougar, they have no natural predators other than humans should there numbers remain unchecked you will begin to see an unbalance which increases the risk of cougar attacks on humans this has been scientifically proven in places like Culp Creek Oregon.

CULP CREEK, Ore. (AP) -- Cougar numbers continue to increase since voters approved a 1994 measure that banned the use of dogs to hunt the big cats, and their encroaching population is creating problems.

Washington voters approved the same ban last year and state Department of Fish and Wildlife officials fear the same overpopulation problem may occur in this state. But because Oregon's law was passed two years earlier, the population changes there have been easier to measure.

The number of cougars taken by hunters has fallen from a high of 187 in 1992 to 47 in 1996, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Pete Janelli, 80, who farms 150 acres near this town east of Cottage Grove, says he lost four goats to cougars last year, and he lost his quarterhorse in January.

"She was down, just about dead when we found her," Janelli said. "We had to shoot her because she was in such misery."

The federal Animal Damage Control officer, Jack Spencer, examined the dead mare and confirmed it had been attacked by a cougar. He wrote in his report that, based on the size of the cougar's tracks, it is one of the largest cats he's encountered.

Since then, Janelli has had hunters and dogs on his property, which is allowed after livestock damage. But they had no success.

He believes farmers ought to be able to call in the hounds when they spot a cougar, and not have to wait until they lose livestock.

"I'm not saying go out and butcher them all, you know," he said. "It's their country, you really can't blame them. But we've got to get some control on them."

In Lane County, the number of people calling with damage complaints or alleged cougar sightings has risen from perhaps four a year in the 1980s to an average of

115 per year between 1994 and 1996, said Bill Castillo, a district wildlife biologist.

"We get calls every week, sometimes more than one a day," Castillo said.

People opposed to hunting cougars say statistics on cougar sightings are seldom verified and claim some cases may be manufactured by hunting organizations.

"We think the numbers and the paperwork are being shuffled in a way that makes it look much worse than it is," said Brooks Fahy, executive director of the Predator Defense Institute in Eugene.

"We don't think much has changed. Cougars don't reproduce that fast."

No one has ever been killed by a cougar in Oregon and Castillo said he can verify only one attack on a human. But the Fish and Wildlife Department office in Springfield has received calls of cougars lying in people's driveways in the middle of the day, climbing on decks and peering into windows.

"It's behavior we never heard of in the past," Castillo said.

Castillo believes the population increase is such that some parts of the state have reached the animal's "carrying capacity." With territorial adult cougars occupying forested habitat, younger cats have been forced to the Willamette Valley floor.

"Now we have cougars and people trying to live in the same area, and that has created lots of conflict," Castillo said. "These cats are having kittens, and those kittens are growing up with the sights, sounds and smells of humans."

Please consider my opposition to the ban on cougar trapping. We need to keep a balance. Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Cougar trapping
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 6:05:47 AM

From: Mitchell Simpson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 4:28 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Cougar trapping

Dear Commissioners,

Please base your decisions on sound scientific data. Please don't base it on political pressure, much of this pressure comes from being uneducated in the area of wildlife management. The cruelest thing that can be done to wildlife is to not manage it.

Thank you,
Mitchell Simpson

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Cougar trapping
Date: Thursday, September 05, 2019 4:52:55 PM

From: Mitchell Simpson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 4:28 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Cougar trapping

Dear Commissioners,

Please base your decisions on sound scientific data. Please don't base it on political pressure, much of this pressure comes from being uneducated in the area of wildlife management. The cruelest thing that can be done to wildlife is to not manage it.

Thank you,
Mitchell Simpson

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] East Mountains and Bears.....
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 11:47:03 AM

Stewart Liley, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

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-----Original Message-----

From: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 5:46 PM
To: Liley, Stewart, DGF
Subject: FW: [EXT] East Mountains and Bears.....

From: Caroline Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 5:13 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Gail.Cramer@state.nn.us; Tirzio.Lopez@state.nmus; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] East Mountains and Bears.....

Honorable Folk,

You are probably going to receive a few letters, so mine may not be much different. For several years I have watched Jan Hayes help educate the public about the value of bears in our East Mountains. The eco-system up here is both highly unique and fragile....especially due to our weather swings (one year productive food, next year early freezes killing off acorn buds).

My husband and I both live up here, walk up here, watch the cycles of life going on around us. The value of having enough bears is somewhat understood by people, and probably will never be fully understood as to the part every living thing plays. My belief is that, much like hunting out big horn sheep, when you take away a member you impact the health of this beautiful place. Every predator / prey / plant / micro-organism is adapted to this place, and uniquely work together --- from keeping prey animals in check, to even the "output" fertilizing the forest.

I have seen the counts done with barb wire (basically) that yields perhaps the same bear walking around an area. The counts are probably never exact from year to year.....but if you overdo the hunting, lack of new cubs produced along with the adults taken out will impact the overall health of the forest and mountains.

If you will take some time to look at information about the animals who live here, I would like to think you may come to agree.

Sincerely,

Caroline Jones



From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] East Mountains and Bears.....
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019 8:00:38 AM

From: Caroline Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 5:13 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Gail.Cramer@state.nn.us; Tirzio.Lopez@state.nmus; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] East Mountains and Bears.....

Honorable Folk,

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If you will take some time to look at information about the animals who live here, I would like to think you may come to agree.

Sincerely,

Caroline Jones
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] email concerning bear and cougar proposals
Date: Thursday, August 08, 2019 1:50:52 PM

Tristanna Bickford

[REDACTED]

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

To report a wildlife-law violation, please call the toll-free Operation Game Thief hotline at (800) 432-GAME (4263) or click in the logo here. Callers can remain anonymous and earn rewards for information leading to charges being filed.

<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/enforcement/operation-game-thief-overview/>

<https://www.facebook.com/nmdgf>

<https://twitter.com/NMDGF>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/NMGameandFish>

<https://www.instagram.com/nmgameandfish/>

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On 7/30/19, 4:10 PM, "Todd Tatum" [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> wrote:

This is Jeanne Tatum [REDACTED] My husband and I are license vendors under the name of our business, [REDACTED]

We received an email from the department with a list of the public meeting dates concerning proposed bear and cougar changes.

The email refers the public to the dept website under "proposals under consideration". However, the website currently only lists migratory bird proposals. Are the bear and cougar changes going to be posted with adequate time for the public to review them prior to the public meeting dates?

Also, on the webcast of the July 24 meeting, the audio was lost at 7:34:09 and didn't come back until 7:39:57. I hope those comments will be in the minutes.

Thank you,
Jeanne Tatum

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Even more to read about bears
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:32:30 AM

Please see discussion below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 1:13 PM
To: Mary Katherine Ray
Subject: Re: [EXT] Even more to read about bears

No worries about being repetitive. I appreciate that it is often a very necessary approach to actually effect change.

I have read a couple of Muir's books - really fun style, and amazing/fearless/some might say reckless explorer. Hard to find someone more passionate about nature and the outdoors.

Best,
David

From: Mary Katherine Ray [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 9:41 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: Re: [EXT] Even more to read about bears

Hi David,

Yes, John Muir was the founder of the Sierra Club. He's on the California quarter along with the Yosemite half dome and a CA condor- a hero for the ages- and also a wonderful author, right up there with Aldo Leopold.

I'm glad to hear the Dept has plans for ongoing bear study. Still prudence would require that until the data is in, bear hunting should only proceed with great precaution. (I'm being repetitive I know- can't help it, was once a teacher)

Mary Katherine

On Wed, Sep 11, 2019 at 11:12 PM Soules, David, DGF [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Mary Katherine:

Thank you for the conversation as well. I have followed up with the department, expressing your concern that the sow harvest should be reduced, as well as the need for continued scientific population studies to properly inform management decisions. I believe the

department intends to perform similar hair snare studies in the Jemez and the Gila in the next year or two, and perhaps repeat the study in the Sacramento Mountains after that. I believe the message there is that the department does not intend to rest on the laurels of the Gould study. They will keep at it.

I also asked about the Colorado bear management approach since I believe both you and the Sandia Bear Watch organizations have referenced their approach. I am not yet familiar with Colorado's bear regulations.

I will take a look at the additional references soon. Thank you for providing them.

Thank you for providing the Sierra Club's position. I have been a past member of the Sierra Club, but I am not sure if my membership is current. Was the Sierra Club founded by John Muir? Nancy and I and our family have been fortunate to hike the John Muir Trail twice. I just wanted you to know that my family enjoys the outdoors for much more than hunting, and I appreciate the Sierra Club's contributions very much.

Best regards,
David

From: Mary Katherine Ray [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 9:00 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Even more to read about bears

Hello David,

Thank you so much for the conversation today. I did want to clarify, since it came up, that in the Sierra Club, we have members who hunt, members who don't hunt, members who think it's wrong to hunt and the entire spectrum of attitudes and beliefs in between. Just so you'll know, this is our written policy about hunting: "**Sport Hunting And Fishing -- Wildlife and native plant management should emphasize maintenance and restoration of healthy, viable native plant and animal populations, their habitats, and ecological processes. Acceptable management approaches include both regulated periodic hunting and fishing when based on sufficient scientifically valid biological data and when consistent with all other management purposes and when necessary total protection of particular species or populations.**"

A key phrase, "...when based on *sufficient* scientifically valid biological data.." is what I think we are lacking when it comes to bears. (the emphasis being mine)

I'm attaching two papers:

The first by Laufengerg, et al. reports the 57% decline of female bears during the study which would have been completely missed in the absence of the study.

Welfelt, et al. is newly published and examined bear density in Washington state. She found that density in bear habitat near human development was much lower than expected though the area had excellent production of bear food.

The abstract has this quote which is highly relevant to NM bear management, "Our findings underscore the importance that black bear density is not likely uniform and management risk may be increased if an average density is applied at too large a scale".

(as an aside, co-author Rick Beausoleil at one time worked for NM G&F. I think in the 90's)

thank you for reading even more from me,

Mary Katherine

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] FW: BearWatch on Bear Hunt Dates.
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:38:56 AM

Please see comments below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 9:32 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [EXT] FW: BearWatch on Bear Hunt Dates.

Hi Jan:

Thanks for the feedback. I hope you enjoy your vacation and don't encounter any Tsunamis. It has been a pleasure working with you too.

Best,
David

From: Dennis Hayes <dennis@nmia.com> on behalf of jan@janhayes.com <jan@janhayes.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 4:03 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] FW: BearWatch on Bear Hunt Dates.

[Dear Commissioner Soules,](#)

Officer Cimbal recently called on behalf of Director Sloane to ask where BearWatch stood on the bear hunt being changed with some southern zones closed in August and the hunt extended through December. After some thought, here is where BearWatch stands on these bear hunt dates.

BearWatch has always believed that August is too hot to hunt bears in a southwestern state like NM, both for the bears, hunters and their dogs.

- We believe it makes for an unfair hunt. In August, the acorns haven't yet matured which means the bears are being pursued by hunters/dogs when they are not in prime condition. The bears that are pursued but not killed lose the little weight they've been able to gain over the summer time.
- Most important, closing only Southern Zones in August puts more strain on the rest of the Zones and more strain on sows populations that BW believes are in trouble.

- Pushing the hunt into December makes for an unfair and unethical hunt.
- Dogs disturb denned pregnant sows and sows with cubs. Some spooked sows will not return to their cubs/den.
- In December, the male bears that haven't yet denned are in a walking-hibernation mode. They have fecal plugs, are not eating or drinking and are slow to react to pursuing hunters and/or dogs which makes it easier for the hunters to bag their bear.
- New Mexico has one of the longest bear hunts in the US. A Sept.-Nov. hunt gives generous time for bear hunters and makes for a fair and ethical hunt.

We leave on our vacation to the Oregon coast on Saturday, Sept. 14th. Hopefully we won't encounter a Tsunami with all the earthquakes that are shaking that coast right now. Kate Fry, an able BW board member will represent us at the Cloudcroft meeting.

It's been a pleasure working with you.

Regards,

Jan

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] FW: BearWatch on Bear Hunt Dates.
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 6:06:04 AM

From: Dennis Hayes [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 3:59 PM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] FW: BearWatch on Bear Hunt Dates.

Dear Commissioner Bates,

Officer Cimbal recently called on behalf of Director Sloane to ask where BearWatch stood on the bear hunt being changed with some southern zones closed in August and the hunt extended through December. After some thought, here is where BearWatch stands on these bear hunt dates.

BearWatch has always believed that August is too hot to hunt bears in a southwestern state like NM, both for the bears, hunters and their dogs.

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able BW board member will represent us at the Cloudcroft meeting.

It's been a pleasure working with you.

Regards,

Jan

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Forman, Nicholas, DGF](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] FW: BearWatch on Bear Hunt Dates.
Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 3:32:01 PM

More comments that you may or may not already have.

Elise Goldstein

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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From: Sloane, Michael B., DGF
Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2019 10:08 PM
To: Goldstein, Elise J., DGF
Subject: Fwd: [EXT] FW: BearWatch on Bear Hunt Dates.

Please add to the bear/cougar comment emails. Thanks.

Michael B. Sloane
Director
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations.

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF" [REDACTED]

Date: September 5, 2019 at 4:51:17 PM MDT
To: "[REDACTED]"
Cc: "Sloane, Michael B., DGF" [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [EXT] FW: BearWatch on Bear Hunt Dates.

Thank you for your input Jan. I appreciate you taking the time to give me your thoughts on this. I believe that eliminating the 2 week August rifle hunt will allow for fewer sows taken which is a goal of both of ours.

I hope you have a wonderful trip.

Roberta

From: Dennis Hayes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 3:56 PM
To: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF
Subject: [EXT] FW: BearWatch on Bear Hunt Dates.

Dear Roberta,

Officer Cimbal recently called on behalf of Director Sloane to ask where BearWatch stood on the bear hunt being changed with some southern zones closed in August and the hunt extended through December. After some thought, here is where BearWatch stands on these bear hunt dates.

BearWatch has always believed that August is too hot to hunt bears in a southwestern state like NM, both for the bears, hunters and their dogs.

- We believe it makes for an unfair hunt. In August, the acorns haven't yet matured which means the bears are being pursued by hunters/dogs when they are not in prime condition. The bears that are pursued but not killed lose the little weight they've been able to gain over the summer time.
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- In December, the male bears that haven't yet denned are in a walking-hibernation mode. They have fecal plugs, are not eating or drinking and are slow to react to pursuing hunters and/or dogs which makes it easier for the hunters to bag their bear.
- New Mexico has one of the longest bear hunts in the US. A Sept.-Nov. hunt gives generous time for bear hunters and makes for a fair and ethical hunt.

We leave on our vacation to the Oregon coast on Saturday, Sept. 14th. Hopefully we won't encounter a Tsunami with all the earthquakes that are shaking that coast right now. Kate Fry, an able BW board member will represent us at the Cloudcroft meeting.

It's been a pleasure working with you.

Regards,
Jan

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Fwd: An open letter to the State of New Mexico Game Commissioners
Date: Monday, September 09, 2019 8:58:45 PM
Attachments: [An open letter to the NM Game Commissioners Sept 5 2019.pdf](#)

From: Stephan Helgesen <[REDACTED]org>
Sent: Friday, September 6, 2019 5:55 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Fwd: An open letter to the State of New Mexico Game Commissioners

Please see the two-page attachment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
Thank you for your service to our animals and their habitats.

Regards,

Stephan Helgesen
[REDACTED]

P.S. Remember me from the EDD?

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Fwd: Bear Hunting in New Mexico
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:40:59 AM

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 11:41 AM
To: Drena Welty
Subject: Re: [EXT] Fwd: Bear Hunting in New Mexico

Hi Drena:

I am certain that you are correct, dogs do not know the difference. I understand your point is a concern about using dogs to hunt bears at all. I looked through the proclamation, and noted that "There is no "pursuit" or "training" season outside the regular open season". That doesn't prevent a sow with cubs from being chased during open bear seasons, but I expect the cubs are several months old by the time the season opens. I know that Spring bear hunting was closed in all of NM a number of years ago, and perhaps that was part of the rationale.

Thanks again for your input,
David

From: Drena Welty [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 8:37 AM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: Re: [EXT] Fwd: Bear Hunting in New Mexico

David,

Thank you for your response. I do appreciate the work done by the Game and Fish Department. My question remains, "how does a radio collared dog know the difference between a sow with cubs and a sow without cubs and what chance do cubs have when being chased by dogs?" I would like to see the Department address the use of barbaric, inhuman methods of hunting.

Drena Welty

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 2, 2019, at 2:59 PM, Soules, David, DGF [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Drena:

Thank you for your email. I would like you to know that the NM Department of Game and Fish did a very extensive study of the bear population in much of the state, and they are using that information, which I believe is the "Best Available Science" at this point in time, to set limits for bear harvest in 15 different management zones.

You might also be interested to know that current game department regulations protect sows with cubs, so the mother and cubs you describe should be okay.

Best regards,
David

From: Drena Welty [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 31, 2019 9:19 AM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Fwd: Bear Hunting in New Mexico

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Drena Welty [REDACTED]
Date: August 28, 2019 at 1:20:21 PM MDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Bear Hunting in New Mexico

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Drena Welty [REDACTED]
Date: August 27, 2019 at 7:02:31 PM MDT
To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Bear Hunting in New Mexico

Please give every consideration to reducing the number of bear sows to be hunted to no more than 100.

Additionally, we live in Taos Canyon and recently had a sow and her 2 cubs visit our property. This is the first bear siting in two years and we feel it is directly related to hunters hunting with radio collared dogs. This is a barbaric hunting practice I would hope the commission would consider banning. I am not opposed to hunting as long as it's done fairly so a mother and cubs might have a fighting chance.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Drena Welty, a Concerned NM citizen
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Fwd: Bear Hunting in New Mexico
Date: Saturday, August 31, 2019 3:27:52 PM

From: Drena Welty [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 1:20 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Fwd: Bear Hunting in New Mexico

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Drena Welty [REDACTED]
Date: August 27, 2019 at 7:02:31 PM MDT
To: joanna.prukop@state.nm.us; r.salazar-henry@state.nm.us;
jimmy.bates@state.nm.us; gail.cramer@state.nm.us; trizio.lopez@state.nm.us;
david.soules@state.nm.us; jeremy.vesbach@state.nm.us
Subject: Bear Hunting in New Mexico

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Additionally, we live in Taos Canyon and recently had a sow and her 2 cubs visit our property. This is the first bear siting in two years and we feel it is directly related to hunters hunting with radio collared dogs. This is a barbaric hunting practice I would hope the commission would consider banning. I am not opposed to hunting as long as it's done fairly so a mother and cubs might have a fighting chance.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Drena Welty, a Concerned NM citizen
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rule@state.nm.us; [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Fwd: Cougar trapping
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 11:38:13 AM
Attachments: [Screenshot_20190910-174552.png](#)
[Screenshot_20190910-174527.png](#)
[Screenshot_20190910-174430.png](#)
[Screenshot_20190910-174412.png](#)
[Screenshot_20190910-174536.png](#)
[Screenshot_20190910-174457.png](#)

From: robert hodshire [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 6:29 PM
To: Lopez, Tirzio, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Fwd: Cougar trapping

----- Forwarded message -----

From: robert hodshire [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Sep 10, 2019, 6:00 PM
Subject: Cougar trapping
To: Chance [REDACTED]

Let me offer my congratulations on your new position.

I'm here to discuss lions and lion trapping. I have a great admiration for them as an Apex predator.

In the past we were forced to do kill permit here. Most hunters drive through Eastern New Mexico to lion hunt. The game and fish claims we don't have appropriate habitats
Now in past I've killed to lions trapping on kill permits. One trapping under the new rule.
Eastern New Mexico zone m never dents the kill quota. We need trapping as a tool.
Even Apex predator needs a predator to maintain balance. Let's don't get out of balance by laws and rules like our neighbors

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#); [Sloane, Michael B., DGF](#); [Comins III, James C., DGF](#); [Liley, Stewart, DGF](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Fwd: Cougar trapping
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 12:00:50 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot_20190910-174552.png](#)
[Screenshot_20190910-174527.png](#)
[Screenshot_20190910-174430.png](#)
[Screenshot_20190910-174412.png](#)
[Screenshot_20190910-174536.png](#)
[Screenshot_20190910-174457.png](#)

Hello, Mr. Hodshire,

Thank you for your email, comments and attachments. I will make sure they become part of the official record for the bear and cougar rule making process, and I will discuss them with Department staff working on the proposed rule.

Enjoy your day,

JOanna Prukop, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: robert hodshire [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 6:25 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Fwd: Cougar trapping

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **robert hodshire** [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Sep 10, 2019, 6:00 PM
Subject: Cougar trapping
To: Chance [REDACTED]

Let me offer my congratulations on your new position.

I'm here to discuss lions and lion trapping. I have a great admiration for them as an Apex predator.

In the past we were forced to do kill permit here. Most hunters drive through Eastern New Mexico to lion hunt. The game and fish claims we don't have appropriate habitats
Now in past I've killed to lions trapping on kill permits. One trapping under the new rule.

Eastern New Mexico zone m never dents the kill quota. We need trapping as a tool.
Even Apex predator needs a predator to maintain balance. Let's don't get out of balance by
laws and rules like our neighbors

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Fwd: Cougar trapping
Date: Monday, September 16, 2019 9:35:02 AM
Attachments: [Screenshot_20190910-174552.png](#)
[Screenshot_20190910-174527.png](#)
[Screenshot_20190910-174430.png](#)
[Screenshot_20190910-174412.png](#)
[Screenshot_20190910-174536.png](#)
[Screenshot_20190910-174457.png](#)

From: robert hodshire [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 6:29 PM
To: Lopez, Tirzio, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Fwd: Cougar trapping

----- Forwarded message -----

From: robert hodshire [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Sep 10, 2019, 6:00 PM
Subject: Cougar trapping
To: Chance [REDACTED]

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Even Apex predator needs a predator to maintain balance. Let's don't get out of balance by laws and rules like our neighbors

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Lion trapping concerns
Date: Wednesday, July 31, 2019 3:59:57 PM

FYI....email conversation with Casey Davis re: cougar trapping regulations

Joanna Prukop, Chair
NM State Game Commission

From: Casey Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2019 8:34:50 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Subject: Re: [EXT] Lion trapping concerns

Thanks Joanna,

I definitely do give your comments lots of consideration. As I hope you do mine. I do understand it was not always a legal way of hunting. I just don't want this to be the gate way on a total trapping ban.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

On Sun, Jul 28, 2019, 8:18 PM Prukop, Joanna, DGF [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi, Casey,

I've said my piece; so all I'll add is that the 2019 State Legislature did ban coyote calling contests in New Mexico because of citizen opposition to them. It is inappropriate and risky to have the State Legislature writing our wildlife management rules, but they have the power to do so. I do not want that path to become a routine way for citizen activists to manage game animals. Sport trapping of mountain lion was not always allowed, probably with good reason; especially since we have other ways of dealing with legitimate depredation complaints. This is not an all or nothing proposition. Lions can be hunted via other legal means. Again, I hope you'll give my comments consideration.....JPrukop

From: Casey Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2019 7:50 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Subject: Re: [EXT] Lion trapping concerns

Joanna,
I appreciate you getting back to me.

I do understand that you want to help with our hunting, fishing, and trapping privilege's. But I do not think you are helping at all by eliminateing one to save the rest. Doing this you are opening a door that you will not be able to close. A door where the rest of our hunting, trapping, and fishing privilege's will follow and leave us with no privilege's. These laws and out rulings start small, the quickly escalate with no return.

By eliminateing these practices you leave us with no way to teach our kids and our families how we were once raised. No way to keep the tradition alive. The respect for nature and it's creatures are strongest with those that participate in these practices. We are not all out in the woods shooting every animal in our sites. That's why the game and fish management requires tags, and mandatory checks on lion kills wether they are trapped or shot.

Eliminateing the trapping of lions is NOT saving anything. No matter what you believe. There is still an enforcement on the number of lions killed in each individual unit.

It still seams very political to me. Your eliminateing lion trapping to please someone that just either doesn't understand trapping or quite frankly doesn't like it. No science behind it. No studies. If you were eliminateing it to help the population that's one thing but to eliminate it cause you feel like it, that's political, and social and is not right in anyway form or fashion.

Always remember hunting, fishing, and trapping might be a privilege but it's a way of life that you are threatening to destroy. It's as much of a privilege as those trying to change it.

I appreciate all of your time,
As a conserved trapper, Hunter ,and Guide.

On Sun, Jul 28, 2019, 7:02 PM Prukop, Joanna, DGF <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hello Casey and Andre,

I received emails from both of you about the Game Department's suggestion that the Game Commission eliminate sport trapping of mountain lions. I thought I would respond to both of you in one email to express my views. I understand that both of you are opposed to such an action, but I would like to give you some of my thoughts, and ask you to think about them before deciding to further oppose the Department's recommendation.

I am concerned about the overall future of trapping. I support regulated trapping of furbearers and doing so under the best management practices that have been developed by trappers working in conjunction with state wildlife agencies and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. I also understand and applaud the "Public Trust Doctrine", which our country adopted when we became a nation, and which says that "wildlife belongs to

the people.” I want to point out that that means ALL people. I also want to state that as it stands, hunting, fishing and trapping are privileges, not rights. And as such, they can be taken away at any time with proper authority.

Therefore, I believe one of my responsibilities as a Game Commissioner is to protect the privilege of hunting, fishing and trapping in today’s New Mexican society, culture and political environment. I think sport trapping of mountain lions, considered an iconic species by many, is very risky in today’s society. I feel whether or not we trap lions is more a social issue than it is a political issue. However, it is one that could quickly turn political.

I’m asking you, as one of the few individuals who ”sport” traps for lions, if you would please think about what I’ve said. In the 2019 NM State Legislative Session there was a bill introduced to severely limit trapping as a legitimate activity in our state. Some would like to ban it entirely. We run the risk of that occurring if we as responsible sportsmen and women aren’t aware of our vulnerabilities, and I suggest, we must act proactively to keep our activities properly regulated to garner the support, or at least no opposition from, those who could act against our interests (remembering that wildlife belongs to everyone in New Mexico, including all those who vote).

Again, it is my sincere hope that you’ll think about the things I’ve said here. I believe we really aren’t on opposite sides when it comes down to the bottom line. I hope you’ll see it that way too.

As a professional wildlife biologist, I have access to a number of professional articles written on these subjects by scientists who are also hunters and trappers. Please let me know if you’d like me to send you any of these papers to read.

Thank you for expressing your concerns to the Commission. We are here to serve you. We all care about your issues, and we all hope to make wise decisions about how our wildlife management activities are handled going forward.

Sincerely,

Joanna Prukop, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Joanna Prukop, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Casey Davis [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, July 26, 2019 9:48:38 PM

To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF

Subject: [EXT] Lion trapping concerns

I just wanted to email you all and tell you that y'all's lion trapping idea is discrimination against new mexico trappers landowners and all sportsmen and is not acceptable. Decisions should be science based not political. As yall **even stated the decision has no basis on science or wildlife management.**

I've been lion hunting for about 10 years now and have never seen or even felt like the population was affected by trapping.

If NM wants to better there game and fish management maybe yall should look into the science side of it and stop worrying about the political crap that's ruining are state and livelyhood.

Thanks your concerned lion Hunter.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Lion trapping rule changes
Date: Monday, September 30, 2019 8:37:42 PM

Please see below.

From: shelly thedford [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 6:48 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Lion trapping rule changes

As a New Mexico Trapper I am offended by the very lax use of the word recreational trapping. I don't trap as just a little thing to do. I trap to help my rancher protect his livestock. You are making it where my rancher can't call me to take a lion off his property. I have to tell him how sorry I am, but I will need to release this lion and you will have to call an already over loaded game and fish officer to take care of this, so let's just watch this lion continue take your cattle down until someone can get hear. The facts that you are missing, and mind you it's very important. As a trapper I purchase a lion tag to trap...and hear it is, the facts, read carefully!!
#1 I purchase the tag. #2 I can only take 2 lion per trapping season. Not 30, not 15, not 45. 2!!
#3 I can only take them on private and State Trust Land. I don't have access to all public land to use my lion tags like houndsman or hunter. #4 I can only trap from November to March.
You are taking away a tool for me and my rancher.

Thank You,
Shelly Thedford

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Lion Trapping
Date: Friday, September 20, 2019 12:52:49 PM

From: shelly thedford [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 1:33 PM
To: David Soules; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF; R.Salizar-Henry; Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Lion Trapping

As a New Mexico Trapper I am offended by the very lax use of the word recreational trapping. I don't trap as just a little thing to do. I trap to help my rancher protect his livestock. You are making it where my rancher can't call me to take a lion off his property. I have to tell him how sorry I am, but I will need to release this lion and you will have to call an already over loaded game and fish officer to take care of this, so let's just watch this lion continue take your cattle down until someone can get hear. The facts that you are missing, and mind you it's very important. As a trapper I purchase a lion tag to trap...and hear it is, the facts, read carefully!!
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Thank You,
Shelly Thedford

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Mountain lions
Date: Monday, September 30, 2019 9:19:48 PM

Please see comments below.

From: Bill Applegate [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 7:15 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Mountain lions

Dear Commissioner:

I have been harvesting mountain lions in Texas since 1992. Population estimates, based on genetic diversification studies conducted in the Trans Pecos area (West part of the state) conclude that numbers are stable. Stable enough that no further studies were deemed necessary and no attempts have been made to interfere with harvest.

Since the State does not attempt to control the numbers, landowners and tenants have the option to implement control measures, at no cost to the public, or to raise lions. This system has worked quite well, as those who want lions have them and those who prefer to raise deer, elk, aoudad, antelope, bighorn and other exotics may do so.

Revenue from hunting ungulates far exceeds any revenue that could be generated from a lion hunting program. The rule of thumb of a lion killing one deer per week is low and unrealistic as females raising kittens will clean up a carcass in one sitting. Further, during warm weather, kills will spoil quickly and lions typically do not return for a second feeding. Even using the low estimate of 52 kills per year, lions are significant competitors with humans for game and trophies.

Since lion numbers are held in check with this system, wildlife abounds and livestock attacks are infrequent. Further, the only reported attacks on humans have been in the Big Bend National Park, where they are completely protected.

Attempting to maintain lion numbers at a point that will give the public a rare opportunity to actually see one will have adverse effects on many other wildlife species, livestock and people.

Sincerely,

Bill Applegate

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Mountain lions
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:53:07 AM

From: Bill Applegate [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 7:13 PM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Mountain lions

Dear Commissioner:

I have been harvesting mountain lions in Texas since 1992. Population estimates, based on genetic diversification studies conducted in the Trans Pecos area (West part of the state) conclude that numbers are stable. Stable enough that no further studies were deemed necessary and no attempts have been made to interfere with harvest.

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Attempting to maintain lion numbers at a point that will give the public a rare opportunity to actually see one will have adverse effects on many other wildlife species, livestock and people.

Sincerely,

Bill Applegate

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] New Mexico Bears
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 11:46:55 AM

Stewart Liley, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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From: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 5:44 AM
To: Liley, Stewart, DGF
Subject: Fw: [EXT] New Mexico Bears

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 5:24 AM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Gail.Cramer@state.nn.us; Tirzio.Lopez@state.nmus; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] New Mexico Bears

Dear Commissioners: I am a native New Mexican and currently live in the Sandia Mountains. I appreciate the work that you do preserving the mountain ecosystems and wildlife. I receive regular information from BearWatch and there is now concern about the current hunting practices regarding bears.

BearWatch now has a concern that too many bear sows are being killed statewide in the hunt. The sow limit is now set at 318, yet, for the last four years, the actual harvest averages about 180 not counting depredation deaths. The Game department is proposing no changes for bear for the next four years.

Given that the average ages of the sows being killed statewide are now a low (6.5 years) and dropping to the Red Line of age 6 (Hornocker bear study found NM's sows were on average 5.7 years old before their first cub) BearWatch has met with 6 Game Commissioners in recent weeks to address this concern. We proposed that no more than 100 sows, including depredation, be killed statewide in future harvests until harvested sow ages show that they are rebounding to viable age ranges.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely

S. Jane Allen



From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] New Mexico Bears
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019 8:00:12 AM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 5:24 AM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Gail.Cramer@state.nn.us; Tirzio.Lopez@state.nmus; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
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Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely

S. Jane Allen
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] New Mexico Wild Sheep Foundation Comments on Cougar Rule
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:49:38 AM
Attachments: [Cougar Rule Comments Ltr.pdf](#)

From: Bryan Bartlett [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 2:31 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Jeremy.Verbach@state.nm.us; David Heft; lhoughton@sportsmensalliance.org; Clay Brewer
Subject: [EXT] New Mexico Wild Sheep Foundation Comments on Cougar Rule

Attached please find the NMWSF comments on the proposed cougar rule changes.(2 pages)

If you need to contact us, our address is:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank You Bryan Bartlett, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] New Mexico Wild Sheep Foundation Comments on Cougar Rule
Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 4:32:03 PM
Attachments: [Cougar Rule Comments Ltr.pdf](#)

From: Bryan Bartlett [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 2:31 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Jeremy.Verbach@state.nm.us; David Heft; [REDACTED] Clay Brewer
Subject: [EXT] New Mexico Wild Sheep Foundation Comments on Cougar Rule

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank You Bryan Bartlett, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] New Mexico"s bear population and hunt
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:45:55 AM

From: Yolanda Garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 4:24 PM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] New Mexico's bear population and hunt

Commissioner Jimmy Bates
New Mexico Game & Fish Commission

Dear Commissioner Bates:

Please accept this e-mail letter to you as my public input for the Commission's deliberation on statewide bear hunt.

First let me say, I do not campaign for nor support an anti-hunting posture. I am a life-long resident of New Mexico. I come from a long family line of hunters and sportsman, who take the view that all things (hunting) must be done in moderation and with sensibility.

I ask only for sensible and sound management to ensure a viable bear population. This can be done with reasonable, conservative bear management and implementation of the BearWatch's Recommendation to the New Mexico Game Commission for Black Bear Management, August 2019.

Please, stop the damage that is befalling New Mexico's bear population before it is too late and these magnificent creatures no longer exist in our beautiful state.

Respectfully,

Yolanda Garcia
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] New Mexico's bear population and hunt
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:50:11 AM

Please see comments below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 12:15 PM
To: Yolanda Garcia
Subject: Re: [EXT] New Mexico's bear population and hunt

Hello Yolanda:

Thank you for the input. I am also a life-long resident of New Mexico, and I am thrilled every time I see a bear in the wild. Even for someone who spends as much time outdoors as I do, it is a very special experience. I appreciate that you do not support an anti-hunting posture, and I absolutely agree that we should adhere to the concepts of "moderation and sensibility". I have spent considerable time visiting with leaders of the Sandia Bear Watch organization, and I am confident that the department is listening and is striving to implement a sensible and sound management approach for bears.

Thanks again,
David

From: Yolanda Garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 4:24 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] New Mexico's bear population and hunt

Commissioner David Soules
New Mexico Game & Fish Commission

Dear Commissioner Soules:

Please accept this e-mail letter to you as my public input for the Commission's deliberation on statewide bear hunt.

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2019.

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Respectfully,

Yolanda Garcia



From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] New Mexico's bear population and hunt
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 11:47:11 AM

Stewart Liley, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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From: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 4:51 PM
To: Liley, Stewart, DGF
Subject: Fwd: [EXT] New Mexico's bear population and hunt

----- Original Message -----

Subject: [EXT] New Mexico's bear population and hunt
From: Yolanda Garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019, 4:25 PM
To: "Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF" [REDACTED]
CC:

Commissioner Roberta Salazar-Henry, Vice-Chair
New Mexico Game & Fish Commission

Dear Commissioner Salazar-Henry:

Please accept this e-mail letter to you as my public input for the Commission's deliberation on statewide bear hunt.

First let me say, I do not campaign for nor support an anti-hunting posture. I am a life-long resident of New Mexico. I come from a long family line of hunters and sportsman, who take the view that all things (hunting) must be done in moderation and with sensibility.

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2019.

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Respectfully,

Yolanda Garcia



From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] New Mexico"s bear population and hunt
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019 8:00:53 AM

From: Yolanda Garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 4:24 PM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] New Mexico's bear population and hunt

Commissioner Jimmy Bates
New Mexico Game & Fish Commission

Dear Commissioner Bates:

Please accept this e-mail letter to you as my public input for the Commission's deliberation on statewide bear hunt.

First let me say, I do not campaign for nor support an anti-hunting posture. I am a life-long resident of New Mexico. I come from a long family line of hunters and sportsman, who take the view that all things (hunting) must be done in moderation and with sensibility.

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Respectfully,

Yolanda Garcia
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] New Trapping and Cougar Rules
Date: Wednesday, October 02, 2019 9:15:45 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: chad stotts [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 10:35 PM
To: ISPA, DGF <dgfinformationspecia@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] New Trapping and Cougar Rules

To whom it may concern, I have read the new rules that are proposed for the fur bearers and cougars. For the cougars I fail to understand why the bag limits for the cougars are not changing but we will no longer be able to trap or foot snare them anymore. Is it inhumane or unsporting to trap a cougars? I think if you where to take a pole of the men who have achieved this task they would show you how ridiculous these accusations are. It has been a dream of mine to trap a cougar and every year I buy tags to try and make it happen. I have also purchased specific traps just for this. It would be very disappointing to see this dream and money go to waste.

As for the fur bearer and trapping changes are proposed. I feel that these changes are both unnecessary and a violation of everything I hold dear. Many of us count on harvesting fur to supplement income for our families. Adding regulations to trapping makes it harder for us to do this. It's like asking someone to build a house but they can only us a hand saw that is six inches long with fine grade teeth only. It makes no sense. These changes that you propose will be doing exactly that. Another question is what are we supposed to do with the trapping equipment that we have spent thousands of dollars on that will no longer meet the new standards? I fail to understand how the methods and standards that we have been using for years are no longer except able. No cares and respects these animals more than trappers. The rules that are currently in place are plenty humane for the animals that are being trapped in the state of New Mexico. If anything they are to strict already. We would do good to take after a state like Mississippi when it comes to trapping regulations!!!! Please realize what these changes would mean. California just became the first state to outlaw trapping all together. By allowing these changes into our state you are putting us one giant leap closer to this for the state of New Mexico. Trapping and selling fur is one of the heritages that founded this great country. Do we not respect the ancestors and heritage that founded this great nation? My son is 12 years old and will probably use fur as a way to help support his family as well. Please don't make me tell him that we have failed him and future generations. Attached you will find a picture of him with his first load of fur he sold last year. Don't make it harder to achieve this!!!! I can't make any of the meetings posted but I would like to have my opinion heard by someone who is part of the decision making process. Please feel free to share this as many time and with whom ever you see fit. Also please contact me if there is anything else I can do to help this cause. Thanks for hearing me and God Bless-

Chad Stotts
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF](#); [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Cc: [Liley, Stewart, DGF](#); [Comins III, James C., DGF](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Opposed to all Trapping Restrictions & Bans
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 11:40:11 AM

Hi, Roberta,

Just FYI....the email address for you in "reply all" for this email bounced back; as did the Bear & Cougar address (which I've been having issues with all week). So just resending to both....jp

From: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 10:19 AM
To: shelly thedford; R.Salazar-Henry; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; David Soules; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Cc: Sloane, Michael B., DGF; Comins III, James C., DGF; Liley, Stewart, DGF; DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rule@state.nm.us; DGF-Furbearer-Rules
Subject: Re: [EXT] Opposed to all Trapping Restrictions & Bans

Good morning, Ms. Thedford,

Thank you for your comments. The other Commissioners and I, and Department staff, will take them into account and make them part of the official record for both the furbearer rule making and lion hunting rule making. I will also verify your comment that [sport] "Trappers only took 13 this past season. Out of those 13, 9 were depredation."

Thank you again for your input,

Joanna Prukop, Chair
NM State Game Commission

From: shelly thedford [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 7:07 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; R.Salazar-Henry; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; David Soules; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Opposed to all Trapping Restrictions & Bans

There are so many reasons for me to oppose the recommended bans on lion trapping and all types of trapping in general. Now let's get started.

To start with, as a trapper and an individual of New Mexico I feel very judged, very ran the heck over, very bullied, very discriminated against because my way of life, my job, my living is so disregarded by so many. All the people who judge what I do are the same people who take and round up Ferrell cats and stray dogs, by live traps and catch poles, by the way, cut off and

cut out their reproductive systems all in the name of supporting healthier animals and to prevent over population. Now, think about what I just said...altering the population of wild animals!! How is what I do any different than what they do. What I do creates healthier animals all the way around. Not to mention the growth of other species and the safety of livestock and the people in the areas I trap and no one pays me to do it. I pay our state to help manage and conserve wildlife.

Now that I have pointed out the Hypocrisy of the left, let's talk about the facts. The percentage of lions taken is considerable small. The overall take of lions is well under the allowed numbers across the state. Trappers only took 13 this past season. Out of those 13, 9 were depredation. Remember to do your research and read where all this "letting the left" and the "save all animals people" have gotten the great state of California. The California lion is starving because the "save the whale people" are killing them. Run the Game Department by scientific facts and not by your heart.

Now for the restrictions. If everyone stays in their lanes and follows the laws, like NM leash laws for pets, and no one in their right mind let's their child run the NM desert from November 1st to March 15th barefooted, so that's a crock that kids are going to break their toes off from foothold traps. If this is happening, we don't have a trapping problem, we have a mental health problem in our state. If we as Trappers are 25 yards off marked trails and mapped roads and tanks and the hikers, bird watchers, and day walkers leash their pets and they don't tamper with traps (against the law) then everyone should be fine. Enforce that all nature and outdoors people buy permits and are required to take a safety class to identify where and how traps are set to avoid mishaps. I believe this to be true even in the areas you are considering closing down to trapping all together.

Don't bend to the LEFTIES!! Protect our wildlife! Conserve our wildlife!! Don't be CALIFORNIA!!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Please consider my stance on banning cougar trapping
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 6:06:48 AM

From: KATHRYN FEE [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 6:18 PM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Please consider my stance on banning cougar trapping

Please consider my stance on trapping cougar, they have no natural predators other than humans should there numbers remain unchecked you will begin to see an unbalance which increases the risk of cougar attacks on humans this has been scientifically proven in places like Culp Creek Oregon.

CULP CREEK, Ore. (AP) -- Cougar numbers continue to increase since voters approved a 1994 measure that banned the use of dogs to hunt the big cats, and their encroaching population is creating problems.

Washington voters approved the same ban last year and state Department of Fish and Wildlife officials fear the same overpopulation problem may occur in this state. But because Oregon's law was passed two years earlier, the population changes there have been easier to measure.

The number of cougars taken by hunters has fallen from a high of 187 in 1992 to 47 in 1996, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Pete Janelli, 80, who farms 150 acres near this town east of Cottage Grove, says he lost four goats to cougars last year, and he lost his quarterhorse in January.

"She was down, just about dead when we found her," Janelli said. "We had to shoot her because she was in such misery."

The federal Animal Damage Control officer, Jack Spencer, examined the dead mare and confirmed it had been attacked by a cougar. He wrote in his report that, based on the size

of the cougar's tracks, it is one of the largest cats he's encountered.

Since then, Janelli has had hunters and dogs on his property, which is allowed after livestock damage. But they had no success.

He believes farmers ought to be able to call in the hounds when they spot a cougar, and not have to wait until they lose livestock.

"I'm not saying go out and butcher them all, you know," he said. "It's their country, you really can't blame them. But we've got to get some control on them."

In Lane County, the number of people calling with damage complaints or alleged cougar sightings has risen from perhaps four a year in the 1980s to an average of 115 per year between 1994 and 1996, said Bill Castillo, a district wildlife biologist.

"We get calls every week, sometimes more than one a day," Castillo said.

People opposed to hunting cougars say statistics on cougar sightings are seldom verified and claim some cases may be manufactured by hunting organizations.

"We think the numbers and the paperwork are being shuffled in a way that makes it look much worse than it is," said Brooks Fahy, executive director of the Predator Defense Institute in Eugene.

"We don't think much has changed. Cougars don't reproduce that fast."

No one has ever been killed by a cougar in Oregon and Castillo said he can verify only one attack on a human. But the Fish and Wildlife Department office in Springfield has received calls of cougars lying in people's driveways in the middle of the day, climbing on decks and peering into windows.

"It's behavior we never heard of in the past," Castillo said.

Castillo believes the population increase is such that some parts of the state have reached the animal's "carrying capacity." With territorial adult cougars occupying forested habitat, younger cats have been forced to the Willamette Valley floor.

"Now we have cougars and people trying to live in the same area, and that has created lots of conflict," Castillo said. "These cats are having kittens, and those kittens are growing up with the sights, sounds and smells of humans."

Please consider my opposition to the ban on cougar trapping. We need to keep a balance. Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it.

Banning this is a public safety concern.

Cougars have attacked over 125 people in North America and there numbers are on the rise due to hunting & trapping restrictions. Cougars have killed over 2 dozen people in the last century. Banning trapping will result in greater numbers of cougars increasing the risk of predation on humans and you will have blood on your hands. Wild animals do not discriminate by banning your putting all of us at greater risk of attack simply by increasing their numbers. Statistics show overpopulation of cougars has resulted in them moving closer to big cities such as downtown Chicago for instance, when there are too many no one will be safe if the public doesn't have a right to defend themselves because people like you protected the wild animal and not them. Tell that to the 8 year old Colorado boy attacked and bit on the head just a few weeks ago, by banning you are telling all the people that have been attacked you care more about the animal than a human life. Think carefully a trapper could save your life.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Please consider my stance on cougar trapping stopping this is a public safety concern
Date: Thursday, September 05, 2019 12:54:50 PM

See email below.

From: KATHRYN FEE [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 6:22 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Please consider my stance on cougar trapping stopping this is a public safety concern

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Please support the proposals of the Sandia Mountain BearWatch organization. Thank you.
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019 7:58:04 AM

From: Alan Zingler [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 3:14 PM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Please support the proposals of the Sandia Mountain BearWatch organization. Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Forman, Nicholas, DGF](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] RE: BearWatch on Bear Hunt Dates
Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 2:13:57 PM

Don't know if you received this one or not, but here it is for the Record.

Elise Goldstein

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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From: Sloane, Michael B., DGF
Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2019 5:29 PM
To: Liley, Stewart, DGF; Goldstein, Elise J., DGF
Subject: Fwd: [EXT] RE: BearWatch on Bear Hunt Dates

Comment for beat and cougar rule

Michael B. Sloane
Director
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations.

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Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: September 7, 2019 at 5:18:17 PM MDT
To: <Michael.Sloane@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] RE: BearWatch on Bear Hunt Dates

Dear Director Sloane,

Officer Cimbal recently called on behalf of you to ask where BearWatch stood on the bear hunt being changed with some southern zones closed in August and the hunt extended through December. After some thought, here is where BearWatch stands on these bear hunt dates.

BearWatch has always believed that August is too hot to hunt bears in a southwestern state like NM, both for the bears, hunters and their dogs.

- We believe it makes for an unfair hunt. In August, the acorns haven't yet matured which means the bears are being pursued by hunters/dogs when they are not in prime condition. The bears that are pursued but not killed lose the little weight they've been able to gain over the summer time.
- Most important, closing only Southern Zones in August puts more strain on the rest of the Zones and more strain on sows populations that BW believes are in trouble.
- Pushing the hunt into December makes for an unfair and unethical hunt.
- Dogs disturb dened pregnant sows and sows with cubs. Some spooked sows will not return to their cubs/den.
- In December, the male bears that haven't yet dened are in a walking-hibernation mode. They have fecal plugs, are not eating or drinking and are slow to react to pursuing hunters and/or dogs which makes it easier for the hunters to bag their bear.
- New Mexico now has one of the longest bear hunts in the US. A Sept.-Nov. hunt gives generous time for bear hunters and makes for a fair and ethical hunt.

I won't be able to be at the Cloudcroft Commission meeting but our BearWatch Board Member Kate Fry will be there to state BearWatch's concerns and recommendation for the 2020 bear hunt. After seeing NMG&F stats in regard to harvested sows ages, we

hope the Commission and the Department will come together to institute more conservative management to stop the troubling downward age trend of New Mexico's harvested sows. Good bear biology tells us that we must protect the sow population if we are to have an overall viable bear population.

With regard,

Jan Hayes

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Forman, Nicholas, DGF](#); [Liley, Stewart, DGF](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Re: seeking comment on proposed bear season dates
Date: Thursday, September 05, 2019 5:03:47 PM

FYI

Elise Goldstein

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: Mary Katherine Ray [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 31, 2019 9:41 AM
To: Goldstein, Elise J., DGF; DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules; Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Re: seeking comment on proposed bear season dates

Hello Elise,

Thank you for letting us know about this proposed change to the bear hunting season. Given the heat in August, using dogs to run bears seems harsh on both bears and dogs. I wonder why BMZ's 11, 14, 8 and 9 aren't also included in this season shift. Temperatures are only going to be rising. I am postulating that this proposed shift is being made for the more southern zones because of this as you did not offer a reason. But the latitude of zone 11 is equal to or south of the latitude of portions of zone 10. The same is mostly true of Zone 14. Zones 8 and 9 along with the other two have experienced temperatures in the past couple of weeks hovering close to or over 90 degrees. Perhaps there is another reason for this proposal and if so, I urge that the heat be a consideration too.

Also, here is an anecdotal example of an, I hope, unintended consequence of the heat. We live in BMZ 10 (game unit 17). About a week ago, a trailer full of baying hunting dogs went up our canyon onto the National Forest in late afternoon almost near sundown. It came out again at about 9:00 the next morning. The rules say that dogs hunting bears must be released during legal hunting hours which can be as late as 1/2 hour after sunset. I suspect that is when these dogs were released when it is much cooler, which is now legal, and treed the bear during the night. In the morning, the hunters killed the treed bear and they came out afterwards. The practice however most certainly comes very close to, if not outright crossing, the boundary of the prohibition of night hunting.

Whether or not the dates are shifted, there should be a better rule about releasing dogs so the

hunt is effectively not happening at night.

Sincerely,
Mary Katherine Ray

[REDACTED]

On Fri, Aug 30, 2019 at 2:33 PM Goldstein, Elise J., DGF [REDACTED] wrote:

As you may have seen at last week's Game Commission meeting, the Department is considering shifting the bear season dates in BMZs 10, 12, and 13 2-weeks later. The new dates would be Sept 1 – December 15. We are seeking public input on this proposal. If you would like to provide input, you may email it to me directly. Thank you.

Elise Goldstein
Assistant Chief - Wildlife

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [Forman, Nicholas, DGF](#); [Liley, Stewart, DGF](#); [Sloane, Michael B., DGF](#); [Comins III, James C., DGF](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Re: seeking comment on proposed bear season dates
Date: Thursday, September 05, 2019 5:02:14 PM

FYI

Elise Goldstein
Assistant Chief - Wildlife
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: Jesse Deubel [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2019 9:29 AM
To: Goldstein, Elise J., DGF
Subject: [EXT] Re: seeking comment on proposed bear season dates

Elise,
Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The New Mexico Wildlife Federation has reached out to our membership for feedback. The responses we received were overwhelmingly in opposition to changing the season dates. Sportsmen/women who responded cited the primary reason for their opposition as wanting to retain the opportunity to pursue bear in August when there is very little other hunting opportunity available. Our members also suggested if there was scientific reasons for the management of the species that was supported by adjusting season dates then they would support doing so. In summary, if there is a good biological reason to change the dates then NMWF would likely support it. If the date change is simply to appease a user-group, my membership has stated that the proposed change would have the opposite affect on them.

Jesse W. Deubel

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On Fri, Aug 30, 2019 at 2:33 PM Goldstein, Elise J., DGF [REDACTED] wrote:

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Elise Goldstein
Assistant Chief - Wildlife
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
(505)-476-8032 – office
(505) 231-1972-cell

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From: [Goldstein, Elise J., DGF](#)
To: [Forman, Nicholas, DGF](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Re: seeking comment on proposed bear season dates
Date: Friday, September 06, 2019 9:02:19 AM

See below.

Elise Goldstein
Assistant Chief - Wildlife
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: Kerrie Romero [mailto:kerrieroxromero@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, September 06, 2019 8:50 AM
To: Goldstein, Elise J., DGF
Subject: [EXT] Re: seeking comment on proposed bear season dates

Have you been receiving outfitter input on the Bear proposal? I asked my guys to just send public comment direct to the email portal.

Kerrie C. Romero

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Fri, Aug 30, 2019 at 2:33 PM Goldstein, Elise J., DGF [REDACTED] wrote:

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Assistant Chief - Wildlife
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Re: seeking comment on proposed bear season dates
Date: Saturday, August 31, 2019 2:54:08 PM

FYI.....JPrukop

From: Mary Katherine Ray [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 31, 2019 9:41 AM
To: Goldstein, Elise J., DGF; DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules; Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
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Assistant Chief – Wildlife
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Save the bears
Date: Saturday, August 31, 2019 3:18:51 PM

From: Jamie Sullivan [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 6:38 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Save the bears

Stop killing the bears

Thank you Jamie Sullivan

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: FW: [EXT] Save the bears
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 11:46:45 AM

Stewart Liley, Chief
Wildlife Management Division
New Mexico Game and Fish

CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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From: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 7:04 PM
To: Liley, Stewart, DGF
Subject: Fwd: [EXT] Save the bears

----- Original Message -----

Subject: [EXT] Save the bears

From: Jamie Sullivan [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019, 6:40 PM

To: "Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF" [REDACTED]

CC:

Stop killing the bears

Thanks Jamie Sullivan

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Save the bears
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019 7:55:20 AM

From: Jamie Sullivan [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 6:40 PM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Save the bears

Stop killing the bears

Thanks Jamie Sullivan

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Snare Journal Article
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:35:07 AM
Attachments: [pastedImage.png](#)

Please see comments below.

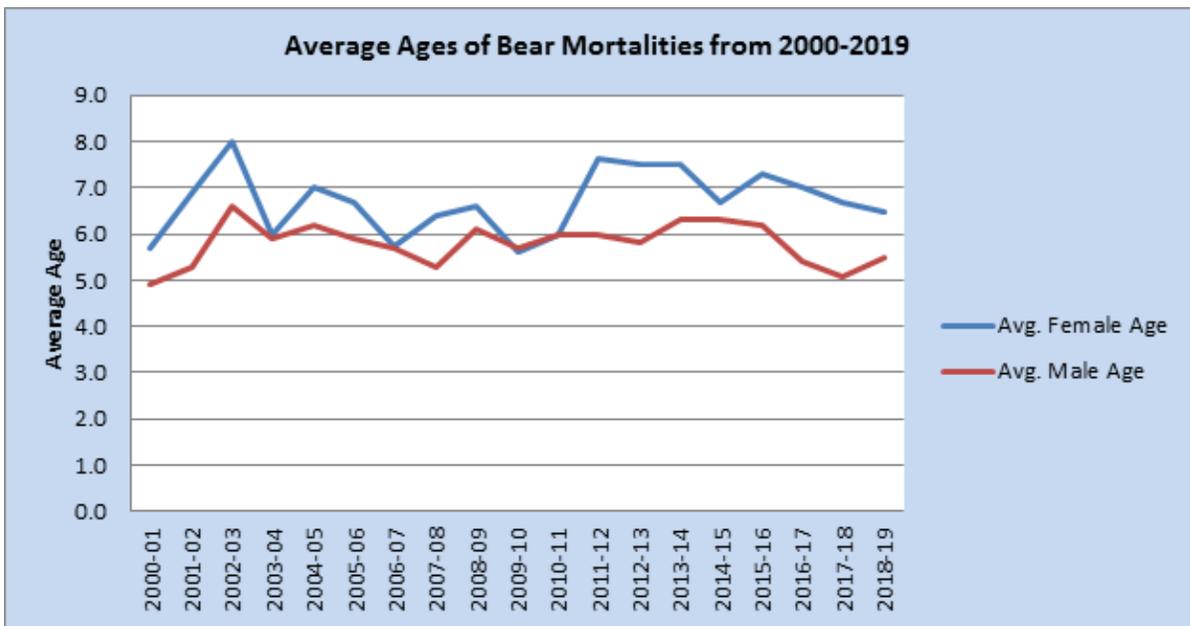
From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 10:13 PM
To: Dennis Hayes
Subject: Re: [EXT] Snare Journal Article

Hi Jan:

I will go back to the game department one more time and ask specifically about the bear regulations in 2004-2005 and the next few years prior to 2010-2011. The department continues to tell me they never had a quota as low as 30%. They are not saying they didn't have a quota, just that it was never as low as 30%. I know you don't agree with it, but they say their current recommendation of a 40% sow limit, combined with a total harvest limit of 10%, is a conservative approach relative to other states. They also provided this chart, which I am sure you have seen before. In fact, I believe the last four years of this chart represent the sow age trend that you describe below. I know it is a minor correction, but the sow age has actually dropped for three years, it increased the year before that.

I hope you have a great vacation.

David



From: Dennis Hayes [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 1:20 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: RE: [EXT] Snare Journal Article

Dear David,

I've attached NMG&F Annual Bear Mortality Report from 2001-2002 to 2017-2018.

Please look at the year starting 2004-2005 when the 30% sow quota went into effect...down 6.4% from the previous year. The 30% quota stayed in effect until 2010 -2011 when Dir. Lane took over and increased the quota to 40% which then sent the harvests much higher than previous years.

After the sow harvest went up to 38.4% in 2006, I complained to Winslow and even went to the Commission meeting to complain and suggest that perhaps the Winslow should cut the sow harvest off at 28% if he couldn't come in closer to the agreed on 30%. He did something about it, because it did come down for the following 6 years.

There is no question that there was a sow quote during this period. It was negotiated (hard fought) in the bear advisory group meetings; I had numerous discussions with Winslow when it was not being met; I complained to the Commission about the same thing; I shared the good times that it was met with our members and also the bad times when it ran over. If DGF says it did not happen then they are wrong.

I'm sure you've wondered why Dennis and I came to the Commissioners instead of the Department in regard to our concerns. We've dealt with this kind of kind of shenanigans in years past and choose not to put ourselves through it again.

Really the sow quota as a percentage of an fuzzy population estimate is not the way to do it. If we don't know how many bears live in the state or each region/zone...and we don't... 30% or 40% of ? makes no difference. We believe the only science that is believable right now is the sow tooth ages at death.

And for the last four years, the sow ages are going down rapidly on a harvest number of approximately 190 females per year. This sample is big enough so that the downward trend is likely real. This is a red flag. It doesn't mean that the sow ages have reached that 6 year red line but it is closing in. So why not do some conservative management now instead of waiting until the tooth ages dip to 6 and below and you have a bear population in trouble.

Thank you for taking the time to look closely at this issue.

Now I'm going to go pack and try to leave this concern behind me...for a while.

Regards,
Jan

From: Soules, David, DGF [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 11:46 PM
To: Dennis Hayes
Subject: Re: [EXT] Snare Journal Article

Hello again. Thanks for the additional background. I have recently been communicating with Mary Katherine Ray from the Sierra Club regarding bears. In the course of that conversation I have again asked the department about a previous limit of 30% sows. They conferred with Mr. Winslow and still maintain that there has never been a sow limit of 30%. The game department has also provided a chart showing the average age of the sows taken (statewide, I think) that indicates it has mostly remained above 6 years. I will ask them to show it at the next commission meeting.

Thanks again, and have a great vacation.

David

From: Dennis Hayes [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 31, 2019 7:59 AM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: RE: [EXT] Snare Journal Article

Dear David,

I'm not going to get into the details, but the big picture is that for decades, before any bear management was in place in NM, the bear harvests were in the 350 range. And it was in that 350 range when BearWatch was established. Then we started seeing a few high harvests, one was over 700 bears which alarmed us. That's when we pushed G&F to put management in place to stop these high peaks. We pushed to establish the original decades long 350 harvests. The sow quota wasn't in the picture originally, we were just concerned about the large number of bears being killed. Then, after hiring our Bear Biologist Al LeCount, BearWatch on his advice, used the Bunnell and Tait study to recommend a 30% sow quota based on our southwestern habitat. This was accepted by G&F and installed although sloppily, sometimes going a little over the 30%. Liley is incorrect about sow quotas ranging in 45-60% starting from 2005. You need to get these stats from the Dept's. Bear and Cougar Biologist Rick Winslow who is the person that was responsible for overseeing the quotas and shutting off the hunts for each Zone. The latest phone numbers I have for Rick are H:268-6347 C:259-1788 O:476-8046. Frederic.Winslow@state.nm.us. I'm sure this can be cleared up when he sends you his stats.

When the new Director Lane came on board in 2011, the harvest went from 400 up to 640 and the sow quota to 40%. Now the sky is the limit at 804.

My question to you is that when there was no past limit and the hunters were taking over 700 bears on occasion, if the bear population has grown, as Liley states, why aren't hunters bagging the limit of 804 or close to that instead of half of that? The number of bear hunters buying licenses has gone up 1,000 in the past 7 years (3248 to 4283), yet the harvest success rate has gone down from 14.8% to 9.5%. In other words, 91% of bear hunters are not bagging their bears.

The bears that live in the Sandias are a trapped population. In past decades, when a drought or hard freeze killed their acorn forage, they could descend to the Rio Grande river to forage there. Now there are thousands of homes, dogs, cars and a 6 lane interstate between them and the river. On the south end, there is another 6 lane 1-40 interstate. On the east side, a growing human population builds more homes that has put more and more cars on N14. The speed limit is 50, but most drive way over that. On the weekends, people from Albuquerque descend on the mountains to drive the Sandia Crest Rd. to recreate. Then you have city people move to the Mountains and are shocked to see a bear in their backyard in their unprotected garbage and call G&F to trap this intruder. It's truly amazing that we have any bears left in the Sandias. But this is an amazing, resilient animal.

We had lived here ten years when a new neighbor built his home nearby and started having bears trapped and destroyed because they were turning over his beehives...that's when I started BearWatch. For 24 years, we've informed residents how to co-exist with bears with Wildlife Stewards in neighborhoods, Signs everywhere, flyers, presentations, weekly summer newspaper ads, etc. And we plan to will continue because we realize out of all the bear populations in NM, this is the most vulnerable.

After losing over 130 Sandia bears (trapped-relocated) in 2011-2013, the G&F raised the Sandia

harvest limit to 11 and told us we still had 130 bears.

Most years, no Sandia bears are taken by hunters. It's a difficult hunt; rugged terrain, no dogs, no horses, just bow. I've been told by G&F officers, that they believe when a bear is taken, it is usually because the hunter has been baiting (which is against the law). With the high depredation deaths, perhaps it's time to stop all hunting in the Sandias for all of the reasons above.

Thank you for taking the time to look into these questions. After 8 years of non-existent management resulting in some very disturbing sow harvest-age stats, we hope something good will come out of all of these inquires for the bears.

I'll let Dennis go into the habitat.

Your email cites Liley: "the department's total population estimates for each zone (which they use to set season limits) do not include any bears in the regions outside of their sample area." However, Table 3, footnote a) in the 2015 Journal article says the primary bear habitat in the Sandia study area was 168 sq. km and Liley used 18.4 bears per 100 sq. km. for the population estimate. That means the estimated population in the Sandias should be 31 bears. I asked Gould/Roemer several times if I was misinterpreting these numbers and they said I was getting it right.

Regards,
Jan and Dennis

From: Soules, David, DGF [mailto:]
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 1:32 PM
To: Dennis Hayes
Subject: Re: [EXT] Snare Journal Article

Dear Dennis and Jan:

I hope you enjoy your time in Oregon. Here is a little additional follow up.

I asked Stewart Liley if he had copies of the density of the bear snares and rubs used in the 2018 journal article for the Sandias and the Sacramento Mountains. He provided the two figures from what appears to be a Graduate Student Dissertation based on the same study. I have attached those for your reference. Stewart also indicated that while the sample locations used in the study did represent what is likely higher density areas within each Bear Management Zone, the department's total population estimates for each zone (which they use to set season limits) do not include any bears in the regions outside of their sample area. Thus, their total population estimates have a built-in conservative basis. I believe that is why the Department's estimate for the total number of bears in the Sandia BMZ is lower than the number presented in the article.

I also asked Mr. Liley about the history of setting a limit on the number of sows that can be

taken in each BMZ. He indicated that "The Department implemented harvest limits and female sublimits starting during the 2004-05 season, with the female sublimits ranging from 45% to 60% of the total limit depending on the unit. This was modified starting during the 2009-10 season to a 40% female sublimit in all zones, which continues today."

Finally, I looked at the bear mortality data for the Sandias from 2012 - 2018. I very much appreciate that you are concerned about the health of our bear populations statewide, and I assure you, so am I. I also appreciate how much you are doing to reduce bear/human conflicts, which result in many unnecessary depredation losses. What surprised me about the data for the Sandias is how many bears, and more specifically sows, are lost due to Road Kills and "Other". That data looks like this:

**Bear Management
Zone 8 Black Bear
Sow Mortality**

Year	Hunting	Depredation	Road Kill-Other
2012	1	1	2
2013	1	6	9
2014	0	0	1
2015	1	0	0
2016	0	0	0
2017	0	0	1
2018	0	0	1
Total	3	7	14

Of note, 700% more sows died due to Depredation and Road Kill-Other than hunting during this eight year period, and 467% more sows died due to Road Kill-Other than hunting alone. Even if you remove 2013 as an anomalous year (presumably that is when a number of bears moved into urban areas due to drought), the Road Kill-Other category still accounts for 250% more sow mortalities than hunting for the remaining seven years. I don't know how to solve the Road Kill problem, but it is clearly a major cause of sow mortality in the Sandias. I would be interested in your thoughts on that.

Thanks again for everything you are doing for bears in our state.

V/R,
David

From: Dennis Hayes [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 25, 2019 6:32 PM

To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: RE: [EXT] Snare Journal Article

Dear David,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us and making the effort to look into our concern about what we believe the stats are showing in regard to the declining average ages of NM's sow population.

Bear biology tells us that this species needs to be managed more conservatively than any other species. And of course, that is where BearWatch's concern for this species lies.

We would appreciate if you would keep us in the loop if anything new comes up.

We'll be on the Oregon coast with our family in Sept. and will miss the Cloudcroft Commission meeting, but, a BearWatch Board member is planning to fill in for me.

With regard,
Jan

From: Soules, David, DGF [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, August 25, 2019 4:46 PM
To: Dennis Hayes
Subject: Re: [EXT] Snare Journal Article

Hi Dennis:

It was nice to meet you and Jan as well. I truly appreciate all of the time and effort Jan has put into this (with your support).

Thanks for sending the article. I read it and also spent some time reviewing the materials you provided, in particular the table with data from each of the Bear Management Zones, the harvest data from 2015-2018, and the summary/recommendations page that emphasizes the 2018 sow age in the harvest data. I also tried to meet with the Department's bear biologist on Friday. I wasn't able to meet with him, but I did spend some time on the phone with Director Sloan. I also spoke with one of the other commissioners about this topic.

At this point, I have some observations that I would like to share:

It appears to me that New Mexico is doing fairly well in terms of "best available science" to estimate bear populations throughout the state. Although the whole focus of science is subjecting scientific studies to review and opportunity for others to confirm or refute the results, (and although the article was peer-reviewed, it is new enough that other comments may yet be forthcoming), the 2018 Gould study appears to me to be a serious effort to

establish a basis for population estimates in New Mexico. (I'm not sure if Jan's efforts played a part in encouraging such a serious endeavor for estimating our bear population, but if it did, I commend her.) The study certainly doesn't answer all questions, but I suspect it puts us ahead of many other states in terms of a current study using "best available science".

I appreciate your comments that Mr. Liley used a lower (i.e. more conservative estimate) for the bear population in the Sandias than the higher number that would have resulted from the top-rated model elsewhere.

Although the scale of the figure that shows the Sandias is not nearly as informative as the one for the Sangre de Cristo range(s), it does appear that the density of the sample stations is reasonable. When I spoke with Director Sloan, I asked about your concern that extending the Sandias management zone so far to the east seems to show a bias toward the better habitat, he indicated that he believes Mr. Liley attempted to avoid that bias when selecting sample stations statewide. That remains a point for follow-up with Mr. Liley.

New Mexico still needs to conduct a similar study for the SW region of the state.

I absolutely agree with you and Jan that the emphasis in bear management harvest limits should be on sows. Although this is already part of NM's management strategy, anything that helps reduce the percent of sow harvest would be helpful. I am still thinking about approaches that would achieve that goal.

I appreciate your efforts to limit bear interactions with homes and communities to reduce depredation losses. Please keep up the great work in that area.

When I spoke with Director Sloan, I asked about data showing harvest data for sows that goes back farther than the 2015 - 2018 compilation that you used in the table you provided. He directed me to a location on the department's website that I have not yet explored. If I find anything interesting there I will let you know. I will also forward that web address.

Unfortunately, when I reviewed that table you provided that covers 10 years of data showing average age of males and females, I cannot sustain an argument that we are seeing a decline in the age of sows. In fact, almost every management zone shows periods of marked increases in the average age of sows that were well-below the critical age of six that you referenced when we met. In fact, if you replicate the slide you presented for 2018 that highlights three management zones with sow ages in the "critical" area below six, and five more between six and seven, for prior years, you will find that the average age in subsequent years does not often look troubling. The age in subsequent years appears to move up or down due to other factors.

Lastly, the bear population in the Sandias is obviously much smaller overall than the other regions in the 2018 Gould paper, which makes it much more sensitive to outside influences such as drought. I believe it is therefore prudent to be particularly conservative with the sow harvest there.

Thank you again. I wish that everyone with concerns for the department and commission did as much homework as you have, with an emphasis on real data and best available science. I have already learned a great deal (and have much more to learn) based on our conversation, the information that you provided, and the Gould's paper. It is clear that you are making a difference based on your passion for bears. I hope you will continue to do so.

Best regards,
David

From: Dennis Hayes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 8:56 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Snare Journal Article

David,
Nice to meet you today. Thanks for your time and interest.
Here is the article I mentioned.
Figure 2 looks like pretty good coverage in the SdC's!
Table 1 shows 9 bears total sampled in Sandias.
Table 3. Calculation $N_{hat} = 168\text{km}^2 \times 18.4 \text{ bears}/100\text{km}^2$ give the 31 bears I cited.
Gould agrees. Note Liley used the 18.4 from the second-ranked model instead of the 25.7 for D_{hat} from the top-ranked model
The population in the Sandias is only of secondary concern to me. I would like to see clarification on prime bear habitat state wide since that determines the total population estimate that drives bear limits.
Best
Dennis

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT] Trapping Regulations
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019 7:59:39 AM

From: Mitchell Simpson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 9:53 AM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF
Cc: Mitchell Simpson
Subject: [EXT] Trapping Regulations

Dear Commissioners,

The American Sportsman has footed the financial burden of wildlife conservation. It has been done through licenses, fees, taxes and donations. Most people only think of the licenses and fees, more importantly is the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act. The Pittman-Robertson Act is a tax on firearms, ammunition, hunting equipment, archery equipment, fishing equipment and motor boat fuel. This tax generates from 177 to 324 million annually that is distributed to State Conservation Departments. It is estimated that hunters contribute about three and a half million dollars a day to conservation by purchasing taxable items and licenses. This doesn't include donations through different foundations such as Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Big Game Forever, Whitetails Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation and many others. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has contributed 1.1 billion dollars to elk conservation since 1984. The United States currently has the highest population of whitetail deer, turkey, wood duck, black bear, cougar and elk in history. Many of these species were threatened in the early 1900's. This success is due to the American Sportsman not the Humane Society, PETA or any other Anti-hunting or Anti-trapping organization. Taking any hunting, trapping or fishing rights without scientific data showing it necessary is an injustice to the American Sportsman that has paid the bills of conservation.

Thank you,
Mitchell Simpson

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT]
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:51:01 AM

Please see comments below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 12:05 PM
To: pat manaster
Subject: Re: [EXT]

Hi Pat:

Thanks for your input. I recently spent a couple of hours with Jan and Dennis Hayes. They presented some very informative material on bears and more specifically, the concern that we should minimize the number of sows that are taken each year. I then followed up by reading a peer-reviewed journal article on the recent bear study conducted in New Mexico, and discussed the matter with the NMG&F department. I can assure you that the department is very mindful of the sow harvest issue, and I am confident it will continue to be reflected in the hunting regulations.

Thanks again,
David

From: pat manaster [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 8:36 AM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT]

Please use your power to make sure not too many bear sows are killed. I am not against hunting bears but don't want to lose the species through too much depredation. Perhaps no more than 100 should be allowed to be hunted and killed. Thanks for listening to my concern. Ms. Pat Manaster in Albuquerque where I have seen a few bears during my time in the Sandias. One time, a large cinnamon-colored one crossed the road as I was driving through just before the Sandia ski lift. It was wonderful to see that bear!

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXT]
Date: Wednesday, September 04, 2019 6:55:59 PM

From: KATHRYN FEE [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 6:15 PM
To: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF
Subject: [EXT]

Please consider my stance on trapping cougar, they have no natural predators other than humans should there numbers remain unchecked you will begin to see an unbalance which increases the risk of cougar attacks on humans this has been scientifically proven in places like Culp Creek Oregon.

CULP CREEK, Ore. (AP) -- Cougar numbers continue to increase since voters approved a 1994 measure that banned the use of dogs to hunt the big cats, and their encroaching population is creating problems.

Washington voters approved the same ban last year and state Department of Fish and Wildlife officials fear the same overpopulation problem may occur in this state. But because Oregon's law was passed two years earlier, the population changes there have been easier to measure.

The number of cougars taken by hunters has fallen from a high of 187 in 1992 to 47 in 1996, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Pete Janelli, 80, who farms 150 acres near this town east of Cottage Grove, says he lost four goats to cougars last year, and he lost his quarterhorse in January.

"She was down, just about dead when we found her," Janelli said. "We had to shoot her because she was in such misery."

The federal Animal Damage Control officer, Jack Spencer, examined the dead mare and confirmed it had been attacked by a cougar. He wrote in his report that, based on the size

of the cougar's tracks, it is one of the largest cats he's encountered.

Since then, Janelli has had hunters and dogs on his property, which is allowed after livestock damage. But they had no success.

He believes farmers ought to be able to call in the hounds when they spot a cougar, and not have to wait until they lose livestock.

"I'm not saying go out and butcher them all, you know," he said. "It's their country, you really can't blame them. But we've got to get some control on them."

In Lane County, the number of people calling with damage complaints or alleged cougar sightings has risen from perhaps four a year in the 1980s to an average of 115 per year between 1994 and 1996, said Bill Castillo, a district wildlife biologist.

"We get calls every week, sometimes more than one a day," Castillo said.

People opposed to hunting cougars say statistics on cougar sightings are seldom verified and claim some cases may be manufactured by hunting organizations.

"We think the numbers and the paperwork are being shuffled in a way that makes it look much worse than it is," said Brooks Fahy, executive director of the Predator Defense Institute in Eugene.

"We don't think much has changed. Cougars don't reproduce that fast."

No one has ever been killed by a cougar in Oregon and Castillo said he can verify only one attack on a human. But the Fish and Wildlife Department office in Springfield has received calls of cougars lying in people's driveways in the middle of the day, climbing on decks and peering into windows.

"It's behavior we never heard of in the past," Castillo said.

Castillo believes the population increase is such that some parts of the state have reached the animal's "carrying capacity." With territorial adult cougars occupying forested habitat, younger cats have been forced to the Willamette Valley floor.

"Now we have cougars and people trying to live in the same area, and that has created lots of conflict," Castillo said. "These cats are having kittens, and those kittens are growing up with the sights, sounds and smells of humans."

Please consider my opposition to the ban on cougar trapping. We need to keep a balance. Those who forget the past are doomed to repeat it.

Banning this is a public safety concern.

Cougars have attacked over 125 people in North America and their numbers are on the rise due to hunting & trapping restrictions. Cougars have killed over 2 dozen people in the last century. Banning trapping will result in greater numbers of cougars increasing the risk of predation on humans and you will have blood on your hands. Wild animals do not discriminate by banning you're putting all of us at greater risk of attack simply by increasing their numbers. Statistics show overpopulation of cougars has resulted in them moving closer to big cities such as downtown Chicago for instance, when there are too many no one will be safe if the public doesn't have a right to defend themselves because people like you protected the wild animal and not them. Tell that to the 8 year old Colorado boy attacked and bit on the head just a few weeks ago, by banning you are telling all the people that have been attacked you care more about the animal than a human life. Think carefully a trapper could save your life.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Re: Black bear comments from the Humane Society of the United States
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:26:01 AM

Please see attached email thread related to the Bear and Cougar rules.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 5:57 AM
To: Wendy Keefover
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Black bear comments from the Humane Society of the United States

You're welcome.

From: Wendy Keefover [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 10:44 AM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Black bear comments from the Humane Society of the United States

Dear Com. David,

Thank you so much for taking the time to read our comments, and taking the time to consider our concerns! I really appreciate that effort!

Best wishes,

Wendy

From: "Soules, David, DGF" [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, September 30, 2019 at 8:57 PM
To: Wendy Keefover <wkeefover@humanesociety.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Black bear comments from the Humane Society of the United States

Hi Wendy:

I absolutely took the time to read your comments. In fact, I have read more about black bear studies and management and public opinion in the last several months than I have about any species before in my life! I appreciate your concern for our wildlife, and believe me, I want to ensure we have a sound bear management policy in place.

Best regards,
David

From: Wendy Keefover [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 5:41 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Black bear comments from the Humane Society of the United States

Dear Com. David,

I also submitted the comments to the requisite portal for the agency already – but thank you for ensuring the right people got them too!

I hope you take the time to read our comments—there's some room for discussion about the quota!

Thank you!

Wendy

From: "Soules, David, DGF" [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, September 13, 2019 at 4:35 PM
To: Wendy Keefover [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Black bear comments from the Humane Society of the United States

Hi Wendy:

Thank you for your comments. Although more data is always welcome and warranted and in the plans for New Mexico's bear population, the game department has some very good science behind their bear management plan. I will make sure your comments are forwarded to the game department as well.

v/r,
David Soules

From: Wendy Keefover [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 3:36 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Black bear comments from the Humane Society of the United States

Dear Com. Soules,

Attached please find comments by the Humane Society of the United States concerning black bear management in New Mexico.

Given the paucity of black bear data in New Mexico,, we request that the black bear quota revert to 335 from 804. The number 804 has no basis in sound science and is far greater than hunters, predator control agents and others achieve annually, according to the NMDGF's own mortality data.

Black bears cannot withstand heavy persecution – they are super slow to reproduce. A female black bear in New Mexico doesn't begin reproduction until she is almost six years old, and then she will produce only a few cubs in her lifetime – many of whom do not survive their first year.

The data show that bears are valued by most New Mexicans. Most appreciate bears' sentience and intrinsic values—their devotion to their cubs and ability to maintain the biological diversity of their forest ecosystems.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need access to studies we cited, or if you have questions or comments!

Thank you for reviewing these comments!

Sincerely yours,

Wendy Keefover

[Redacted signature line]

[Redacted address block]

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Fight for all animals. The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's most effective animal protection organization, fighting for all animals for more than 60 years. To support our work, please make a [monthly donation](#), give in [another way](#) or [volunteer](#).

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BLOG

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: * Letter of Opposition- Cougar Regulation Proposal *
Date: Monday, September 09, 2019 10:58:51 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[SA - Letter of Opposition - Cougar Regulation Proposal.pdf](#)
Importance: High

From: Luke Houghton [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 3:19 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Cc: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: * Letter of Opposition- Cougar Regulation Proposal *

To Chairwoman Joanna Prukop:

Please see the attached letter of opposition on behalf of the Sportsmen's Alliance and its New Mexico members regarding Bear and Cougar Rule Development 19.31.11. Please feel free to contact our office if you would like to discuss our concerns further.

Regards,

Luke Houghton

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: * Letter of Opposition- Cougar Regulation Proposal *
Date: Wednesday, August 07, 2019 1:51:19 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[SA - Letter of Opposition - Cougar Regulation Proposal.pdf](#)
Importance: High

From: Luke Houghton [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 3:19 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Cc: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: * Letter of Opposition- Cougar Regulation Proposal *

To Chairwoman Joanna Prukop:

Please see the attached letter of opposition on behalf of the Sportsmen's Alliance and its New Mexico members regarding Bear and Cougar Rule Development 19.31.11. Please feel free to contact our office if you would like to discuss our concerns further.

Regards,

Luke Houghton

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Cramer, Gail, DGF](#); [Soules, David, DGF](#); [Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF](#); [Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF](#); [Bates, Jimmy, DGF](#); [Lopez, Tirzio, DGF](#); [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: B&C RULES—Letter—Carson Forest Watch - Oct 10, 2019
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 9:52:49 AM
Attachments: [B&C RULES—Letter—Carson Forest Watch - Oct 10 2019 - 3-28 PM.pdf](#)

Hi, in case this letter didn't come through to you, here it is again....jp

From: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 9:50 AM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Subject: B&C RULES—Letter—Carson Forest Watch - Oct 10, 2019

Scanned with TurboScan.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Bear & Cougar Rule Development - APNM and HSUS Comments
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:55:31 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[NM Cougar Rule Preproposal Comment 091619 FINAL.pdf](#)

From: Jessica Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 4:12 PM
To: DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules; Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bear & Cougar Rule Development - APNM and HSUS Comments

Dear Commissioners and New Mexico Department of Game & Fish,

Attached, please find initial written comments on the Bear & Cougar Rule development on behalf of Animal Protection of New Mexico and the Humane Society of the United States.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to continuing to engage in this rulemaking process. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the comments we've provided here.

Sincerely,

Jessica Johnson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Making Sure Animals Matter in Every New Mexican Community
Learn more by [viewing our video!](#)



From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Bear & Cougar Rule Development - APNM and HSUS Comments
Date: Friday, September 20, 2019 1:05:08 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[NM Cougar Rule Preproposal Comment 091619 FINAL.pdf](#)

From: Jessica Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 4:12 PM
To: DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules; Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bear & Cougar Rule Development - APNM and HSUS Comments

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We thank you for your consideration and look forward to continuing to engage in this rulemaking process. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about the comments we've provided here.

Sincerely,

Jessica Johnson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Making Sure Animals Matter in Every New Mexican Community
Learn more by [REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Bear Sows in New Mexico
Date: Monday, September 09, 2019 9:03:08 PM

From: kristin thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 31, 2019 5:09 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Re: Bear Sows in New Mexico

Thank you so much!

Kristin

On Aug 31, 2019, at 3:16 PM, Prukop, Joanna, DGF [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Ms. Thompson,

Thank you for your comments and concern. I will make certain your email becomes a part of the public record on this matter.

Sincerely,

Joanna Prukop, Chair
NM State Game Commission

From: kristin thompson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 11:52 AM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bear Sows in New Mexico

Dear Ms. Prukop, Please consider lowering the limit of sows to be killed, including predation, to around 100. All the evidence shows that fewer sows are reaching the age where they can reproduce – this will seriously limit the diversity and eventually spell disaster for the NM bear population. This enchanted state deserves better than that. Thank you for your consideration, Kristin Thompson,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Bear Sows in New Mexico
Date: Saturday, August 31, 2019 3:17:36 PM

From: kristin thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 11:52 AM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Bear Sows in New Mexico

Dear Ms. Prukop, Please consider lowering the limit of sows to be killed, including predation, to around 100. All the evidence shows that fewer sows are reaching the age where they can reproduce – this will seriously limit the diversity and eventually spell disaster for the NM bear population. This enchanted state deserves better than that. Thank you for your consideration, Kristin Thompson,
[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: bears, etc
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:42:49 AM

From: Ruth Connery <rupaco@live.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 12:35 PM
To: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Re: bears, etc

Hello,

I'm writing to ask that you and other commissioners take a hard look at the way our Game Commission determines the number of bears and other animals in our state be "managed". We are losing too much land and wildlife for the public taxpayers to enjoy.

It's a sad statement when you go to open spaces or take road trips across our state and see no signs of wildlife.

Please help preserve what we have.

Thank you.

Ruth Connery

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: bears, etc
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:40:14 AM

Please see comments below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 12:49 PM
To: Ruth Connery
Subject: Re: bears, etc

Hello Ms. Connery:

Thank you for the input. I will definitely strive to protect both land and wildlife for the public to enjoy.

Respectfully,
David Soules

From: Ruth Connery [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 12:35 PM
To: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Re: bears, etc

Hello,

I'm writing to ask that you and other commissioners take a hard look at the way our Game Commission determines the number of bears and other animals in our state be "managed". We are losing too much land and wildlife for the public taxpayers to enjoy.

It's a sad statement when you go to open spaces or take road trips across our state and see no signs of wildlife.

Please help preserve what we have.

Thank you.

Ruth Connery



From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: bears, etc
Date: Wednesday, September 04, 2019 2:36:27 PM

From: Ruth Connery [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 12:35 PM
To: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Re: bears, etc

Hello,

I'm writing to ask that you and other commissioners take a hard look at the way our Game Commission determines the number of bears and other animals in our state be "managed". We are losing too much land and wildlife for the public taxpayers to enjoy.

It's a sad statement when you go to open spaces or take road trips across our state and see no signs of wildlife.

Please help preserve what we have.

Thank you.

Ruth Connery

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Black bear comments from the Humane Society of the United States
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 6:01:25 AM
Attachments: [HSUS-NMDGF-BB-Regulations-9-13-2019-Final.pdf](#)

From: Wendy Keefover [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 3:37:06 PM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Black bear comments from the Humane Society of the United States

Dear Com. Bates,

Attached please find comments by the Humane Society of the United States concerning black bear management in New Mexico.

Given the paucity of black bear data in New Mexico,, we request that the black bear quota revert to 335 from 804. The number 804 has no basis in sound science and is far greater than hunters, predator control agents and others achieve annually, according to the NMDGF's own mortality data.

Black bears cannot withstand heavy persecution – they are super slow to reproduce. A female black bear in New Mexico doesn't begin reproduction until she is almost six years old, and then she will produce only a few cubs in her lifetime – many of whom do not survive their first year.

The data show that bears are valued by most New Mexicans. Most appreciate bears' sentience and intrinsic values—their devotion to their cubs and ability to maintain the biological diversity of their forest ecosystems.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need access to studies we cited, or if you have questions or comments!

Thank you for reviewing these comments!

Sincerely yours,

Wendy

Wendy Keefover

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Fight for all animals. The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's most effective animal protection organization, fighting for all animals for more than 60 years. To support our work, please make a [monthly donation](#), give in [another way](#) or [volunteer](#).



From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Black bear comments from the Humane Society of the United States
Date: Monday, September 16, 2019 9:29:40 AM
Attachments: [HSUS-NMDGF-BB-Regulations-9-13-2019-Final.pdf](#)

From: Wendy Keefover [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 3:36 PM
To: Lopez, Tirzio, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Black bear comments from the Humane Society of the United States

Dear Com. Lopez,

Attached please find comments by the Humane Society of the United States concerning black bear management in New Mexico.

Given the paucity of black bear data in New Mexico,, we request that the black bear quota revert to 335 from 804. The number 804 has no basis in sound science and is far greater than hunters, predator control agents and others achieve annually, according to the NMDGF's own mortality data.

Black bears cannot withstand heavy persecution – they are super slow to reproduce. A female black bear in New Mexico doesn't begin reproduction until she is almost six years old, and then she will produce only a few cubs in her lifetime – many of whom do not survive their first year.

The data show that bears are valued by most New Mexicans. Most appreciate bears' sentience and intrinsic values—their devotion to their cubs and ability to maintain the biological diversity of their forest ecosystems.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need access to studies we cited, or if you have questions or comments!

Thank you for reviewing these comments!

Sincerely yours,

Wendy Keefover
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Black bear mortality information link 2012 - 2018
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:51:38 AM

Please see email thread below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Sunday, August 25, 2019 4:47 PM
To: Dennis Hayes
Subject: Fw: Black bear mortality information link 2012 - 2018

Here is the website the department provided. Please note that I have not yet reviewed this site.

David

From: Comins III, James C., DGF
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 2:29 PM
To: Sloane, Michael B., DGF; Soules, David, DGF
Subject: Black bear mortality information link 2012 - 2018

Commissioner Soules,

Here is the link to the black bear mortality information from 2012-2018...

http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/download/hunting/species/bear/Black-Bear-Mortality-2012_2018.pdf

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Comments on Bear/Cougar and a few others things (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:53:41 AM

Please see comments below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 4:20 PM
To: Ahlgrim, Brian [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Comments on Bear/Cougar and a few others things (UNCLASSIFIED)

Hi Brian:

Let's do Wednesday. I have to leave after lunch to make it up to Santa Fe for the commission meeting on Thursday, but since we have opened the bear and cougar rule, I would like to hear your ideas before that meeting. Dave is more than welcome. Does 11:00 at the Frontier Club work for both of you?

Thanks,
David

From: Ahlgrim, Brian [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 12:42 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] RE: Comments on Bear/Cougar and a few others things (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Commissioner Soules,

Apologies for missing your call; I'm in and out quite a bit.

I'd be more than happy to have lunch and chit chat and would like to bring Dave Baca (CC'd) along as well (my boss & fellow hunter) if you're ok with that.

He shares quite a few of the same ideas but we'd also be open to hearing differentiating viewpoints on these issues and many more.

As of now, it looks like Wednesday or Thursday are open for us and we're fairly flexible on times.

Respectfully,

Brian Ahlgrim

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Soules, David, DGF [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 10:54 AM
To: Ahlgrim, Brian [REDACTED]
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Comments on Bear/Cougar and a few others things (UNCLASSIFIED)

Hi Brian:

I tried to call, but wasn't able to reach you. Would you like to have lunch in the next day or two to discuss your ideas?

Best,

David

From: Ahlgrim, Brian [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 9:16 AM
To: Cramer, Gail, DGF; Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Comments on Bear/Cougar and a few others things (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

****View as HTML****

Commission Cramer/Commissioner Soules,

Good Afternoon to you both and congratulations on your recent appointments to the Game Commission!

Commissioner Soules - it was a pleasure to make your acquaintance (albeit briefly) outside of Bldg. 1512 at WSMR a few weeks ago. I find it exciting and a rare opportunity to have Commissioners available and willing to hear comments about our tremendous state and wildlife resources! I thank you for

your openness and willingness to take the time to introduce yourself and speak with me.

Commission Cramer - Always a joy and pleasure to speak/visit with you. I respect you, your service and knowledge about this state more than you know! Moreover, your experiences in NM, both North and South should be valued by all, and I sincerely look forward to your insight, comments and proposals for our state in the years to come. I think you have a very unique perspective on issues with hunting/fishing and also know that you and David (Cramer) have a wealth of experience that will tremendously benefit this state as a whole.

Now, onto my reason for reaching out. I had a few comments on a few things from the past meeting and some other related comments. I certainly know that my thoughts may or may not reflect the majority so please don't feel obligated to initiate or take action on anything mentioned; I'm simply voicing an opinion for future discussions which may or may not be relevant to your upcoming agenda's. I also understand that I am not a biologist, so I am only sending you viewpoints from my many, many days afield each year (a hunter's perspective and nothing more!). You may not agree at all which is completely fine...I'm just relaying a few things I've experienced over the past several years which I think may need to be evaluated for potential tweaks/changes.

Commission Meeting 24-Jul-19; Agenda Item 10: Bear/Cougar Rule

While I don't have any comments on the proposed rules as they are listed, I do have a comment about the way bears are hunted in the Gila National Forest that has become an ever increasing issue over the past 5-10 years, with the last 3 years being very problematic. Currently, bear hunting begins in the Gila National forest (Bear Zone 10) on 16-Aug annually. There are a few of us dedicated bear hunters who take advantage of this early season to chase bears which we greatly enjoy. However, unlike other parts of the state, the use of dogs is allowed during this time frame which has created a number of issues. There are several outfitters that have made the habit of attaching dogs to the front and back bumpers of their trucks and endlessly driving every accessible road in the Gila and beyond searching for bears tracks, scent etc.. GMU 16A from Reserve up through Bear Wallow, Corner Mountain and down to Snow Lake is notorious for this activity every year. While I don't necessarily have an issue with this per se and they aren't breaking any laws (assuming they stay within designated travel corridors), the issue I see and have experienced firsthand is that these trucks and personnel are running deer, elk, bear, and turkey and everything else all over the place for two solid weeks prior to bow season. And when I say make a habit...it's all day every day for two straight weeks. Not to mention the chaos that ensues when scent is discovered and hounds are released after a bear. You now have a scenario where 6-8 dogs are bellowing through the woods followed by 4 hunters and a guide and essentially an entire canyon is disturbed, often times for several days as wildlife have been run into other areas. I have a

hard time swallowing this practice, especially in areas I've spent all summer scouting only to have the entire area changed two weeks prior to opening day by bear hunters and bellowing hounds. Bow hunting is already challenging enough, but in the past few years, animals are spooked, void of typical watering locations, absent from meadows or otherwise relatively accessible areas and have been driven into steep nasty locations of the Gila from the constant day-to-day vehicular traffic by hunters/outfitters pursuing bears. While I don't want this early bear season to cease (nor prevent outfitters from using dogs later in the season), I'd sure like to see an adjustment made which disallows the use of dogs prior to the archery season in order to give archers a better chance of success. After archery season is over, I have no issue with this activity so long as normal regs are followed and closed roads aren't being driven illegally. Other bear zones don't allow bear hunting until 1-Sept, and if this is due to state law or in response to this exact "dog issue", then my next suggestion would be to have the southern zones follow suit OR disallow dog use until after the conclusion of the archery season. If this included an extension to the bear season to ensure harvest quotas are met, that would be fine with me. Again, I do not want to interrupt the use of dogs for bear hunting, nor prevent outfitters or the general public from hunting bear prior to archery season, but would simply like the use of dogs to be restricted until after the conclusion of archery season. The use of dogs from 16-Aug through 31-Aug is negatively affecting the hunting environment for those early season archers in the Gila and surrounding regions in my experience. If that also meant that firearms would need to be restricted prior to archery season for the same issues, no problem. I'd still hunt them with archery tackle from 16-Aug to 31-Aug.

Note - Update from opening weekend 2019; 4 different trucks full of dogs running around in GMU 16A. Sat a few areas bears had consistently been showing up to all summer, no surprise that we heard dogs all weekend and never saw a bear, even though they were frequent on our cameras all summer. Frustrating. Also watched these guys drive their trucks to two waterholes with closed roads. Drove right to them hoping to catch bear scent. Also, 3 of our areas/tanks full of elk all summer (even last week) seemed to be sparse with life these past 3 days, and with no rain the only other change is the vehicles and dogs covering the hill sides. It makes you feel as though you scouted for nothing..with only 12 days until bow season opens.

Comment on Archery Elk Hunting for the next 4 years (I believe the ungulate rules are about due to be reviewed either this year or next)

Another issue I've encountered over the past 4 years since the change made by the previous commission is the significant overcrowding of bow hunters in Unit 16A since the 3-tiered hunt system was abandoned at the direction of Commissioner Salopek. Prior to this, 16A had three fall archery hunts; Sept. 1-10, 11-18, and 19-24. The first and second hunts had distributions of 150 tags/hunt, with the 3rd seeing 100-125 lucky hunters. This was a great system, kept the distribution of hunters spread out and allowed archers to have a much less crowded forest in which to pursue game via stick and string. When commissioner Salopek did away with the 3 tiered system, 16A

became subject to 2 hunts as are most other units. The problem is that the same number of tags were condensed into these two hunts with the first receiving a whopping 250 elk hunters, 300 deer hunters (unit wide, not just 16A), turkey hunters, bear hunters not to mention recreationalists etc. and it's become a circus in that unit until the 15th of the month. I've been fortunate to help and call for people the last two years (and have spent 20 years hunting this area) on this hunt and you simply can't get away from the people after the recent changes. Now that deer archers are dedicated to either Sept or January per the new draw requirements, there will be an additional influx of traffic in these areas. Compounding these issues even further, the forest service has eliminated a huge chunk of legal camping area (listed as distributed or non-distributed camping), closed off several public designated camp grounds due to flooding, ATV's are now prohibited for game retrieval, and many roads simply aren't traversable even by ATV due to wash outs, toppled trees etc. All of these together have taken away the main weapon I/we have in which to defeat overcrowding which is my legs, strength and dedication to walk 3-5 miles into the forest before starting to hunt.

Without ATV use (retrieval only), limited areas to camp, the Gila's typical 80-90 degree September days, and the mass of people all crammed into the same camp spots, it's difficult to walk far enough into the woods to get away from other hunters, yet still be close enough to pack out an elk without it spoiling due to the aggressive heat. It's a very challenging and concerning issue. Over the past few years the number of half rotten carcasses is alarming and honestly hard to stomach, but pales in comparison to the frustration being felt throughout hunters camps' from stepping on and fighting people all day long. Honest guys who care more about the meat than headgear are distraught, (sick even) when we get half an elk out and the other half rots before we can do anything with it. The majority of guys I know have huge decisions to make when the opportunity presents itself; how far am I from a road? Can I get this animal out in time? With all the people, will I get another chance? Is something/someone going to steal my horns before I get back (yes...this has happened twice that I know of). Or we're forced to make a decision on the fly, and find out later in fact we were too far from a road, half of that precious elk is going to spoil and what can we do about it??? Not much. Tough place to be in for an archer! I have literally seen fist fights, have seen pistols pulled over roads being blocked by trucks/ATV's, have seen trees cut and placed across roads etc., all in an effort to get away from people and/or secure an area in which to hunt. While there are other glaring issues here, the overarching issue is that of too many archers in the woods at the same time. Compound that with the bear traffic prior to the bow season, 250 licensed hunters and probably closer to 1000 people (250 hunters plus guests) in the woods at once, it's becoming rare to find elk within a mile of a road until late in the rut or even October.

The second archery hunt isn't as bad as the tag allocation is set to 150 licenses as of 2018. This is doable and not nearly as crowded as the first hunt, but again, with the additional rules, new influx of deer hunters required to hunt in Sept, this may even be a bit crowded. 16A is a fantastic elk unit, and moreover a trophy unit in which beautiful animals can be harvested. With that in mind, those lucky enough to draw this extremely

coveted tag (if memory serves Stewart Liley said it would take a minimum of 26 years on a point system to draw a 16A hunt) should have a hunt which is NOT subject to extreme overcrowding as they may never draw it again. I'm not suggesting reducing the tags, extending overall archery dates or anything which reduces opportunity, only to restore the 3 hunt system within the already designated season (1-Sept through 24-Sept) to help alleviate the number of people per hunt and allow the best possible hunt to archers of all abilities and backgrounds; guided or DIY. I also think this would benefit the entire state, not just the southern units.

Would returning to a three tiered hunt system in 16A/C/D, 34, 15, 17, 23, and some of our other prime elk hunting areas help this issue by reducing the overcrowding that frustrates a number of hunters, yet still keep the opportunity and tag numbers the same? I realize complaints about shortened seasons will definitely be heard, but I personally think the "pros" far outweigh the "cons". I'd rather only have 6-8 days to bow hunt in less crowded conditions than 15 days to hunt while wading through people every day. Just a personal opinion but I have to say it's shared by a large number of hunters I associate with. I'm sure there are biological issues, possibly even ecological issues I may not be considering, but right now this design is impacting the overall appeal, hunt quality and success of one of our most coveted areas, and frustrating the lucky few fortunate enough to draw these tags.

Thanks for taking the time to read and thanks for taking time out of your personal lives to become a game commissioner. I'm sure it's a daunting task and a thankless one at times, so thank you both for all that you do for our state, our animals, and the men and women that love the outdoors.

Very Sincerely and Respectfully,

Brian Ahlgrim

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Cougar Bag Limits
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:48:39 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Please see comments below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 10:02 PM
To: Jessica Johnson
Subject: Re: Cougar Bag Limits

Hello Jess:

Thank you for the response. It's nice to know that someone out there is noticing things like that.

Best regards,
David

From: Jessica Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 4:28 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Cougar Bag Limits

Dear Commissioner Soules,
I just wanted to say thank you for prompting NMDGF, during the Game Commission public meeting last week, to add to their Bear & Cougar Rule proposals to no longer allow an additional two tags for cougar license holders who filled their original two tags. I was pleased to see this was added to NMDGF's proposal yesterday on the website.

With appreciation,
Jess
Jessica Johnson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Making Sure Animals Matter in Every New Mexican Community
Learn more by [REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Cougar Trapping
Date: Sunday, September 08, 2019 9:37:20 AM

FYI....

Joanna Prukop, Chair
NM State Game Commission

From: thomas [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 12:11:01 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Cougar Trapping

Dear Commissioners:

I would like to comment on the NMDGF's proposal to end trapping of cougars and reduce the quota in the state.

There is no biological or scientific reason for prohibiting trapping of cougars in NM nor is there any public safety issue involved.

Eliminating cougar trapping will affect the game populations where I currently set traps.

Further, issuing depredation permits prevent me from using the animal's pelt, meat and other products. (yes, we had lion loin for Christmas dinner 2 years ago when we were successful in trapping).

The Dept. statistics show cougar numbers are increasing. It isn't wise use to restrict sound wildlife practices to appease a segment of the population who won't be "satisfied" until there is no harvest by any means.

If the cougar "take" with traps is as insignificant as the Dept. says, then why do they count it in the harvest? My wife and I could have continued trapping cougars if it's that insignificant!

Thank you for your attention and time

Tom Fisher
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Cougar Trapping
Date: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 11:43:55 AM

From: thomas [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 12:11 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Cougar Trapping

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Thank you for your attention and time

Tom Fisher
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Cougar Trapping
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 6:04:53 AM

From: thomas [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 12:11 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Cougar Trapping

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Thank you for your attention and time

Tom Fisher
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: cougar trapping
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:47:26 AM

From: CLAUDIA FISHER [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 7:40 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] cougar trapping

Dear Commissioners:

I am requesting that you continue to allow the trapping of cougars on private land. As the Dept. itself stated, there is no biological or scientific reason to abolish cougar trapping. Regulating through social pressure is not good for animals or humans.

We have been requested by private landowners to remove predating cougars from their land which we were able to do and took care of a problem at no expense to the NMDGF. We were also able to use the pelt and meat which would not have been allowed under a depredation permit.

I urge you to continue cougar trapping.

Thank you

Claudia W. Fisher
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Cougar Trapping
Date: Monday, September 09, 2019 11:50:33 AM

From: thomas <realecologyco@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 7, 2019 12:11 PM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Cougar Trapping

Dear Commissioners:

I would like to comment on the NMDGF's proposal to end trapping of cougars and reduce the quota in the state.

There is no biological or scientific reason for prohibiting trapping of cougars in NM nor is there any public safety issue involved.

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If the cougar "take" with traps is as insignificant as the Dept. says, then why do they count it in the harvest? My wife and I could have continued trapping cougars if it's that insignificant!

Thank you for your attention and time

Tom Fisher
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: I support mountain lion trapping
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 6:06:28 AM

From: Jim Beevers <beeversjb@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 6:41 AM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] I support mountain lion trapping

I support mountain lion trapping. Thank you

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Cc: [Ruybal, Matt, GOV](#)
Subject: FW: Lucas Houghton - NMGF Issue - Website
Date: Monday, August 19, 2019 12:44:46 PM

Hello,

Good afternoon. Please add the comment below to the rulemaking record for the upcoming Bear and Cougar rule revisions.

Thanks.



Sandra C. DuCharme

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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From: Ruybal, Matt, GOV
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 11:57 AM
To: DuCharme, Sandra, DGF
Subject: Lucas Houghton - NMGF Issue - Website

Sandra,

Please see the email below regarding a NMGF concern. Please cc this office on any responses.

Sincerely,

Matt

Lucas Houghton

August 19, 2019 To The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham 490 Old Santa Fe Trail Room 400 Santa Fe, NM 87501
Dear Governor Grisham: The Sportsmen's Alliance continues to be the leading organization fighting coast to coast against any action that threatens hunting, fishing or trapping, while at the same time, proactively advancing and supporting initiatives that allow more opportunities for sportsmen and women. The Sportsmen's Alliance, on behalf of its New Mexico members, urge you to ask the New Mexico Game Commission to reject Bear and Cougar Rule Development 19.31.11, a regulation proposal which would ban the trapping of cougar on private land and state trust lands which make up roughly 98 percent of hunt-able public land. The New Mexico Game Commission has said they are creating this rule based on social issues and not biological justifications. This a very dangerous precedent to set since wildlife management relies on science to be successful, not social movements just because a small group opposes a practice. Trapping is utilized by state fish and wildlife agencies, the federal government and Canadian provinces to control wildlife populations and is a useful tool against depredation from game animals and protecting property. According to the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish (NMDGF) there is an estimated population of 3,000 to 4,000 cougars residing in the state. Additionally, cougar harvest numbers which are set by the New Mexico State Game Commission, have not reached state maximum thresholds in years. As a result, cougar numbers continue to increase, becoming a greater threat to people, pets and livestock. Grazing is currently utilized on state trust lands by cattle ranchers and provides funding to the office of the New Mexico State Lands Office for education and other public school funding. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, cougars ranked the 3rd top predator in New Mexico for cattle related deaths in 2015. As apex predators, cougars have a great impact on iconic wildlife as well including mule deer, pronghorn antelope and elk. Trapping offers a safe way to help mitigate depredation and lowers unwanted interactions between cougars, pets, people and livestock. Banning trapping on private property and the nearly 9 million acres of state trust lands will only create an environment where there is a greater risk of unwanted encounters with cougars. It is for these reasons we would ask you to stand with the Sportsmen's Alliance by asking the New Mexico Game Commission to reject Bear and Cougar Rule Development 19.31.11, regulation proposal. I would be happy to discuss the matter with you further. Sincerely, Luke Houghton Associate Director of State Services CC: Commissioner Roberta Salazar-Henry Commissioner Jimmy Bates Commissioner Gail Cramer Commissioner Tirzio Lopez Commissioner David Soules Commissioner Jeremy Vesbach Commissioner Joanna Prukop

Matt Ruybal
Director
Constituent Services
Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham
490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Ste. 400
Santa Fe, NM 87501
matt.ruybal@state.nm.us
Direct: 505-476-2204
Fax: 505-476-2226
Cell: 505-690-8115
Web: www.governor.state.nm.us
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/govmlg>

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Mountain lion trapping
Date: Monday, September 09, 2019 11:51:37 AM

From: Jim Beevers <beeversjb@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 6:43 AM
To: Lopez, Tirzio, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Mountain lion trapping

I support mountain lion trapping.thank you

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Mountain lion trapping
Date: Monday, September 09, 2019 9:00:26 PM

From: Jim Beevers <beeversjb@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 6:39 AM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Mountain lion trapping

I support mountain lion trapping thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Mountain lion trapping
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 12:12:46 PM

Please see below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 12:57 PM
To: Jim Beevers
Subject: Re: Mountain lion trapping

Thank you for your comment.

David Soules

From: Jim Beevers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 6:44 AM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Mountain lion trapping

I support mountain lion trapping.thank you

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Furbearer-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Mountain lion trapping
Date: Thursday, September 05, 2019 12:55:21 PM

See comment below.

From: Jim Beevers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2019 6:44 AM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Mountain lion trapping

I support mountain lion trapping.thank you

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: NM Bear Sows
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:43:30 AM
Attachments: [Gould et al-2018-The Journal of Wildlife Management.pdf](#)

Please see comments below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 3:08 PM
To: kristin thompson
Subject: Re: NM Bear Sows

Hi Kristin:

I have attached the publication that I referenced. I should also note that the data on the average age of sows came from the Game and Fish department's harvest data over the last 10 years broken out by bear management zone. That information was provided to me by Jan and Dennis Hayes. They are truly remarkable people and I admire the work they have done to champion proper bear management and public education regarding bears throughout the state.

Thanks again,
David

From: kristin thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 9:48 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Re: NM Bear Sows

Thank you so much for taking the time to respond. Unfortunately, it's been awhile since I've trusted the statistics that have come from the Game Department but if the new study has real merit, I truly hope the average age is increasing. It would certainly be a plus. It's been years since I've seen a bear - just like it's interestingly been at least 2 years since I've seen coyotes in my neighborhood, the foothills area of ABQ - I used to see them regularly when I was out. I'll always be interested in seeing that any animal lives a long life - it's better for every species, whether on land or in the oceans - now there's where the average ages have really declined. I'd be interested in reading the study you mention - is it a public report?

Thanks again, Kristin

On Aug 30, 2019, at 7:23 AM, Soules, David, DGF <David.Soules@state.nm.us> wrote:

Dear Ms. Thompson:

Thank you for your input. I fully agree that our bear management should focus on sows and ensure that we have an appropriate distribution. However, I cannot agree that "all of the evidence" shows that fewer sows are reaching reproductive age. In fact, in 2018, the average age of sows taken in six of the bear management zones was over eight years. In most prior years fewer than six of the bear management zones had an average age of sows taken over eight years of age. That single statistic is not enough to make broad statements about the age of our bear population, but it does suggest in some areas the average sow age has actually been increasing.

The best news is that the Game department recently did a very extensive bear study throughout much of the state, and that information will continue to inform our approach to bear management.

Again, thank you for your input and concern.

Best regards,
David

From: kristin thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 12:01 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] NM Bear Sows

Dear Mr. Soules, Please consider lowering the limit of sows to be killed, including predation, to around 100. All the evidence shows that fewer sows are reaching the age where they can reproduce – this will seriously limit the diversity and eventually spell disaster for the NM bear population. This enchanted state deserves better than that. Thank you for your consideration, Kristin Thompson, Albuquerque

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: NM Bear Sows
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:45:13 AM

From: kristin thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 11:55 AM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] NM Bear Sows

Dear Mr. Bates, Please consider lowering the limit of sows to be killed, including predation, to around 100. All the evidence shows that fewer sows are reaching the age where they can reproduce – this will seriously limit the diversity and eventually spell disaster for the NM bear population. This enchanted state deserves better than that. Thank you for your consideration, Kristin Thompson, Albuquerque

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: FW: NM Bear Sows
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 11:46:37 AM

Stewart Liley, Chief
Wildlife Management Division
New Mexico Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Ph: 505-476-8038
stewart.liley@state.nm.us

CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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From: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 12:04 PM
To: Liley, Stewart, DGF
Subject: Fw: NM Bear Sows

From: kristin thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 11:54 AM
To: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF
Subject: [EXT] NM Bear Sows

Dear Ms. Salazar-Henry, Please consider lowering the limit of sows to be killed, including predation, to around 100. All the evidence shows that fewer sows are reaching the age where they can reproduce – this will seriously limit the diversity and eventually spell disaster for the NM bear population. This enchanted state deserves better than that. Thank you for your consideration,
Kristin Thompson, Albuquerque

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Liley, Stewart, DGF](#)
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: FW: NMF&LB Position on Bear and Cougar Rule
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 11:48:24 AM
Attachments: [NMF&LB Position on Bear and Cougar Rule.pdf](#)
[image002.png](#)

Stewart Liley, Chief
Wildlife Management Division
New Mexico Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Ph: 505-476-8038
stewart.liley@state.nm.us

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From: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2019 8:34 PM
To: Liley, Stewart, DGF
Subject: Fwd: NMF&LB Position on Bear and Cougar Rule

FYH.

Roberta

----- Original Message -----

Subject: NMF&LB Position on Bear and Cougar Rule
From: Tanner Anderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2019, 6:02 PM
To: "Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF" <R.Salazar-Henry@state.nm.us>, DAVID SOULES
[REDACTED]
CC:

Good Evening,

Attached are written comments from the New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau in regard to the Bear and Cougar rule. Please give me a call if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Tanner Anderson



From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](mailto:DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules@state.nm.us)
Subject: Fw: opinion
Date: Tuesday, August 13, 2019 3:27:06 PM

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Dorothy Noe [REDACTED]
To: DGF-Bear-ougar-Rules@state.nm.us <DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules@state.nm.us>
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2019, 3:03:01 PM MDT
Subject: opinion

I am another New Mexico resident (Placitas) who is concerned about the viability of the state's large wildlife.

Please consider the following:

- 1. Eliminate ALL recreational cougar trapping on both state and private trust land.**
- 2. Reduce annual cougar kill limits as a viable gene pool is necessary for the animal's survival. Undo the double bag limits for cougars unless there is a proven danger to human of livestock.**
- 3. Reduce annual bear kill limits as the population is difficult to count and needs a diverse gene pool for survival.**
- 4. Unless there is a threat to human of livestock, the cougar kill limit should be no more than two.**

Thank you,

Dorothy Noe

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Opposition to proposal from NMGF to ban lion trapping in NM
Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019 7:58:44 AM

From: jayson grover [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 10:51 AM
To: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF; jayson grover
Subject: [EXT] Opposition to proposal from NMGF to ban lion trapping in NM

Good Morning NM State Game Commission,

I recently listened in (via webcast) to one of your public meetings. I was a bit un-impressed with the logic the NM Dept. of Game and Fish gave for proposing to remove trapping as a means of legal take of mountain lions. The logic and reasoning given in the meeting I witnessed was that only a few people participate in it. I saw no scientific reasons to justify the change. I do not trap lions myself, but believe that others should be able to do so if needed. Please consider the following points as you consider this proposed rule change.

- Lion Trapping has not negatively affected the population
- During public meeting NMGF stated Lion Trapping does not threaten public health or safety
- According to NMGF statistics, Lion numbers continue to rise yet harvest rates have not met the take limit.
- Lion trapping was only recently made legal (I believe since 2016). Few in the state currently have the knowledge to attempt it but there are many wanting to and beginning to learn. Participation will continue to increase with time, but remember too that lions are one of the hardest animals to successfully trap, and to do so takes a considerable amount of time and effort. I am confident that there is currently quite a bit of participation though the harvest numbers may not suggest it yet. Our local sportsmen and women are still learning how to best go about it.
- Eliminating Lion trapping will further burden the NMGF department budget by requiring the department to contract with private individuals at an inflated rate for the removal of problematic Lions.
- With department statistics showing Lion numbers on the rise it would be irresponsible for NMGF to eliminate a method of harvest. This will potentially cause a negative impact to our wild ungulate herds as well as be a financial hardship to the department.
- Try to understand the motivations behind lion trapping. There is little to no value in their fur so I assure you it is not economics. Those I know who do try to trap lions do so to reduce livestock depredation and/or pressure on wild ungulate populations in

areas of high lion density. Some are motivated by the extreme challenge and the opportunity to connect with the natural world in a way that cannot be understood by someone who has never participated in the activity themselves.

- **Bending to social pressure will only encourage for additional pressures to go against scientific biology and factual statistics.**

I would also like to encourage and respectfully ask you to focus on the following:

- Encourage NMGF to educate the public regarding trapping and all other forms of harvesting animals and its important contribution to the ecosystem.
- Improve the Trapping FACTS, information on the NMGF website to improve public perception and combat the falsehoods spread by media as a result of one sided reporting.
- Improve public understanding of the value of the North American Wildlife Management Model.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jayson L. Grover, P.E.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Proposed changes to Bear and cougar rules
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:30:38 AM

Please see discussion below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Saturday, September 28, 2019 4:47 PM
To: cal jaeger
Subject: Re: Proposed changes to Bear and cougar rules

Mr. Jaeger:

The most recent data for New Mexico indicates that the average age for a sow to have her first cubs is less than five years of age. The New Mexico Game and Fish department has also initiated, and continues to utilize, a highly effective means of gathering population density information on bears in New Mexico. While that information is incomplete, and there are plans to repeat the study in areas that were previously monitored, the study does not support an arbitrary sow limit of 100 statewide.

I appreciate your input.

David Soules

From: cal jaeger [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2019 2:41 PM
To: DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules
Cc: Prukop, Joanna, DGF; Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF; Bates, Jimmy, DGF; Cramer, Gail, DGF; Lopez, Tirzio, DGF; Soules, David, DGF; Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Proposed changes to Bear and cougar rules

I hope that the members of the NMGFD/NMGFC will adopt a reasonable, conservative bear management program. Bears in New Mexico are one of the most vulnerable species in the state because of their low reproductive rates. I am asking you to review the current bear sow hunt limit and adjust the current number to a lower number.

The current sow limit is 318 for the next four years yet the harvest average for the last four years is 180. The average age of sows being killed is 6.5 years and in New Mexico sows normally have their first cub at 5.7 years. For a healthy bear population to survive in New Mexico, I propose that no more than 100 sows (including depredation) be killed statewide in future harvests until harvested sow ages show that they are rebounding to viable age ranges.

I was not aware until I read a letter to the editor (Abq Journal, 17 Sep 2019) from Craig McClure (Black Bear Bureau) that New Mexico allowed killing of bear cubs that are 1 year old or less. Also I did not realize that hunters were allowed to use dogs to hunt down and trap the bears or cougars

and then use telemetry to locate and shoot them like they were in a carnival arcade. This is hunting ?? No, this blood sport and something that I believe most New Mexicans would not support. I urge you to prohibit the killing of bear cubs and the use of dogs to hunt bears or cougars.

Cal Jaeger

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: reducing the hunt limit for black bear sows
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:59:58 AM

From: cal jaeger [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 4:20 PM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] reducing the hunt limit for black bear sows

Commissioner Jimmy Bates

My wife and I have lived in New Mexico for almost 40 years. We particularly love the diverse wildlife. I hope that you and the members of the NMSGC will adopt a reasonable, conservative bear management program. Bears in New Mexico are one of the most vulnerable species in the state because of their low reproductive rates. I am asking you to [review the current bear sow hunt limit and adjust the current number to a lower number.](#)

The current sow limit is 318 for the next four years yet the harvest average for the last four years is 180. The average age of sows being killed is 6.5 years and in New Mexico sows normally have their first cub at 5.7 years. For a healthy bear population to survive in New Mexico, I proposed that no more than 100 sows (including depredation) be killed statewide in future harvests until harvested sow ages show that they are rebounding to viable age ranges.

Thank you for your service to New Mexico by serving on the NMSGC. I know you are a hunter and fisherman so I am sure you understand the importance of maintaining the proper balance between current animal populations and hunting limits.

Best Regards,

BG Cal Jaeger [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Reducing the hunt limit for black bear sows
Date: Monday, September 16, 2019 2:56:59 PM

From: cal jaeger [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 15, 2019 4:26 PM
To: Lopez, Tirzio, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Reducing the hunt limit for black bear sows

Commissioner Tirzio Lopez

My wife and I have lived in New Mexico for almost 40 years. We particularly love the diverse wildlife. I hope that you and the members of the NMSGC will adopt a reasonable, conservative bear management program. Bears in New Mexico are one of the most vulnerable species in the state because of their low reproductive rates. I am asking you to review the current bear sow hunt limit and adjust the current number to a lower number.

The current sow limit is 318 for the next four years yet the harvest average for the last four years is 180. The average age of sows being killed is 6.5 years and in New Mexico sows normally have their first cub at 5.7 years. For a healthy bear population to survive in New Mexico, I proposed that no more than 100 sows (including depredation) be killed statewide in future harvests until harvested sow ages show that they are rebounding to viable age ranges.

Thank you for your service to New Mexico by serving on the NMSGC. I know you are a hunter and fisherman and have considerable knowledge of NM lands and wildlife so I am sure you understand the importance of maintaining the proper balance between current animal populations and hunting limits.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Subject: Reducing hunt limit for black bear sows
Date: Friday, September 20, 2019 12:56:26 PM

From: Judy JAEGER [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 3:09 PM
To: Lopez, Tirzio, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Subject: Reducing hunt limit for black bear sows

Subject: Reducing hunt limit for black bear sows

My wife and I have lived in New Mexico for almost 40 years. We particularly love the diverse wildlife. I hope that you and the members of the NMSGC will adopt a reasonable, conservative bear management program. Bears in New Mexico are one of the most vulnerable species in the state because of their low reproductive rates. I am asking you to [review the current bear sow hunt limit and adjust the current number to a lower number.](#)

The current sow limit is 318 for the next four years yet the harvest average for the last four years is 180. The average age of sows being killed is 6.5 years and in New Mexico sows normally have their first cub at 5.7 years. For a healthy bear population to survive in New Mexico, I am asking that no more than 100 sows (including depredation) be killed statewide in future harvests until harvested sow ages show that they are rebounding to viable age ranges.

Thank you for your service to New Mexico by serving on the NMSGC. I know you are a hunter and fisherman and have considerable knowledge of NM lands and wildlife so I am sure you understand the importance of maintaining the proper balance between current animal populations and hunting limits.

Best Regards,
Judy Jaeger

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Subject: Reducing hunt limit for black bear sows
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 5:49:25 AM

From: Judy JAEGER [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 3:06 PM
To: Bates, Jimmy, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Subject: Reducing hunt limit for black bear sows

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Thank you for your service to New Mexico by serving on the NMSGC. I know you are a hunter and fisherman so I am sure you understand the importance of maintaining the proper balance between current animal populations and hunting limits.

Best Regards,
Judy Jaeger

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Subject: Reducing hunt limit for black bear sows
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 6:29:13 AM

Please see discussion below.

From: Soules, David, DGF
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2019 8:51 PM
To: Judy JAEGER
Subject: Re: Subject: Reducing hunt limit for black bear sows

Hello Judy:

I have lived in NM for over 55 years, and I too love our wildlife and public lands. As a new commissioner, I have learned a great deal about bear populations and bear management in NM in the last several months. While our means of estimating bear population numbers is imperfect, I am convinced that NM is doing an admirable job of obtaining scientifically sound estimates of bear populations, and is following a conservative means of establishing harvest limits. Of note, the department has informed me that their most recent data indicates that the average age when sows first produce cubs in NM is less than five years of age. I know that is different than the data from previous studies, but as you note, it is important. I would also like to point out that I have received numerous emails requesting a limit of 100 sows, but no one has provided a scientific basis for that number. I believe the current recommendations for NM bear harvest is using best available science and it is one of the most progressive approaches in the United States for monitoring and managing our bear populations.

Thank you very much for your input and for your concern and efforts to look out for the well being of our wildlife. I truly appreciate your involvement.

Best regards,
David Soules

From: Judy JAEGER [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 3:11 PM
To: Soules, David, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Subject: Reducing hunt limit for black bear sows

[Subject: Reducing hunt limit for black bear sows](#)

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The current sow limit is 318 for the next four years yet the harvest average for the last four years is 180. The average age of sows being killed is 6.5 years and in New Mexico sows normally have their first cub at 5.7 years. For a healthy bear population to survive in New Mexico, I am asking that no more than 100 sows (including depredation) be killed statewide in future harvests until harvested sow ages show that they are rebounding to viable age ranges.

Thank you for your service to New Mexico by serving on the NMSGC. I am sure your considerable experience in wildlife conservation is invaluable to the commission and you understand the importance of maintaining the proper balance between current animal populations and hunting limits.

Best Regards,
Judy Jaeger

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fw: Subject: Reducing hunt limit for black bear sows
Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 4:32:38 PM

From: Judy JAEGER [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 3:02 PM
To: Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF
Subject: [EXT] Subject: Reducing hunt limit for black bear sows

Subject: Reducing hunt limit for black bear sows

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Thank you for your service to New Mexico by serving on the NMSGC.

Best Regards,
Judy Jaeger

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: FW: What is the Departments position regarding the NM Game Commissions proposed rule change on the trapping of mountain lions?
Date: Monday, August 12, 2019 3:47:53 PM

From: jayson grover [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 12, 2019 8:55 AM
To: ISPA, DGF
Subject: What is the Departments position regarding the NM Game Commissions proposed rule change on the trapping of mountain lions?

Good morning NM Game and Fish Department.

Please advise as to your Departments position regarding the NM Game Commissions proposed rule change regarding the trapping of mountain lions.

I am not a lion trapper, but am an avid outdoorsmen. There is no scientific reason to ban trapping of cougars, especially when trapping helps mitigate the loss to livestock and contributes to sound wildlife management practices and is supported by science. I hope the commission will vote against this rule. Trapping plays an important role in wildlife management.

Although trapping does not represent a large proportion of cougars taken, the state has been unable to meet harvest targets in many years. Cougars are increasingly involved in dangerous interactions with pets and even people, and are a natural predator for many wildlife species, including wild sheep, elk and mule deer; which makes the decision to ban trapping highly questionable.

New Mexico's political leadership is clearly targeting public-land hunters and trappers.

According to the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish (NMDGF), there are between 3,000 and 4,000 cougars in the state. Cougar harvest numbers, which are set by the New Mexico State Game Commission, have not reached state maximum thresholds since 2016. As a result, cougar numbers continue to increase and are becoming a greater threat to people, pets, livestock and populations of prey species.

In 2015, the United States Department of Agriculture found that cougars were the third largest threat to cattle in New Mexico. Banning trapping on private and public lands will likely increase livestock depredation by cougars because New Mexico ranchers often use state trust lands for grazing.

DO NOT PUT POLITICS ABOVE SCIENCE

Thank you,

Jayson L. Grover, P.E.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXT] Bear and Lion rule - letter from David L. Heft
Date: Wednesday, October 02, 2019 7:27:32 AM
Attachments: [DOC100219-10022019071230.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bates, Jimmy" [REDACTED]
Date: October 2, 2019 at 7:24:40 AM MDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXT] Bear and Lion rule - letter from David L. Heft

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2019 7:13 AM
To: Bates, Jimmy [REDACTED]
Subject: Send data from MFP07476513 10/02/2019 07:12

Scanned from MFP07476513
Date:10/02/2019 07:12
Pages:2
Resolution:200x200 DPI

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXT] Bear Quotas and Cougar Trapping Ban
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 3:24:35 PM

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Adam Sapp [REDACTED]
Date: 9/17/19 10:40 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: "Soules, David, DGF" <David.Soules@state.nm.us>, "Cramer, Gail, DGF" <Gail.Cramer@state.nm.us>, "Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF" <Jeremy.Vesbach@state.nm.us>, "Bates, Jimmy, DGF" <Jimmy.Bates@state.nm.us>, "Prukop, Joanna, DGF" <Joanna.Prukop@state.nm.us>, "Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF" <R.Salazar-Henry@state.nm.us>, "Lopez, Tirzio, DGF" <Tirzio.Lopez@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Bear Quotas and Cougar Trapping Ban

Ladies and Gentlemen of the State Game Commission,

I'd like to start by thanking you for your service in protecting and managing the wildlife and wild places of New Mexico on behalf of its residents, and continuing to support sustainable and ethical use of its wildlife resources.

Now to the point.

First, I would like to express my opposition to the proposed ban on cougar trapping, as I feel it is not motivated from a scientific basis or management scheme, but instead motivated by a short sighted emotional argument that fails to maturely address the issue of cougar management as a part of wildlife management as a whole. The only purpose that I can see for this ban is to chip at the rights of NM hunters and trappers for the sake of political correctness?

Second I would like to express my opposition to a similar proposal from the New Mexico Bear Watch group members to lower the Sow mortality quota based on their distrust of the science based management plan put forth by the game and fish department regarding black bears. As a bear hunter I count on this hunt as an ethical source of food for me my family, especially in years when I'm not fortunate enough to draw, or harvest other big game. I support reasonable harvest quotas based on sound scientific population estimation techniques - not based on the emotional burden of people who either don't understand where food comes from or think they are justified in enforcing their values on others.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,
Adam Sapp

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXT] Black bear comments from the Humane Society of the United States
Date: Friday, September 13, 2019 5:10:07 PM
Attachments: [HSUS-NMDGF-BB-Regulations-9-13-2019-Final.pdf](#)

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Wendy Keefover [REDACTED]
Date: 9/13/19 3:37 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: "Lopez, Tirzio, DGF" <Tirzio.Lopez@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Black bear comments from the Humane Society of the United States

Dear Com. Lopez,

Attached please find comments by the Humane Society of the United States concerning black bear management in New Mexico.

Given the paucity of black bear data in New Mexico,, we request that the black bear quota revert to 335 from 804. The number 804 has no basis in sound science and is far greater than hunters, predator control agents and others achieve annually, according to the NMDGF's own mortality data.

Black bears cannot withstand heavy persecution – they are super slow to reproduce. A female black bear in New Mexico doesn't begin reproduction until she is almost six years old, and then she will produce only a few cubs in her lifetime – many of whom do not survive their first year.

The data show that bears are valued by most New Mexicans. Most appreciate bears' sentience and intrinsic values—their devotion to their cubs and ability to maintain the biological diversity of their forest ecosystems.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need access to studies we cited, or if you have questions or comments!

Thank you for reviewing these comments!

Sincerely yours,

Wendy Keefover
[REDACTED]



Fight for all animals. The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's most effective animal protection organization, fighting for all animals for more than 60 years. To support our work, please make a [monthly donation](#), give in [another way](#) or [volunteer](#).



From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXT] Lion Trapping
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 3:23:58 PM

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: shelly thedford [REDACTED]
Date: 9/18/19 1:34 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: David Soules [REDACTED], "Lopez, Tirzio, DGF" <Tirzio.Lopez@state.nm.us>, "Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF" <Jeremy.Vesbach@state.nm.us>, "R.Salizar-Henry" <r.salizar-henry@state.nm.us>, "Prukop, Joanna, DGF" <Joanna.Prukop@state.nm.us>, "Bates, Jimmy, DGF" <Jimmy.Bates@state.nm.us>, "Cramer, Gail, DGF" <Gail.Cramer@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Lion Trapping

As a New Mexico Trapper I am offended by the very lax use of the word recreational trapping. I don't trap as just a little thing to do. I trap to help my rancher protect his livestock. You are making it where my rancher can't call me to take a lion off his property. I have to tell him how sorry I am, but I will need to release this lion and you will have to call an already over loaded game and fish officer to take care of this, so let's just watch this lion continue take your cattle down until someone can get hear. The facts that you are missing, and mind you it's very important. As a trapper I purchase a lion tag to trap...and hear it is, the facts, read carefully!! #1 I purchase the tag. #2 I can only take 2 lion per trapping season. Not 30, not 15, not 45. 2!! #3 I can only take them on private and State Trust Land. I don't have access to all public land to use my lion tags like houndsman or hunter. #4 I can only trap from November to March.

You are taking away a tool for me and my rancher.

Thank You,
Shelly Thedford

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules](#)
Subject: Fwd: [EXT] Proposed changes to Bear and cougar rules
Date: Monday, September 23, 2019 1:16:18 PM

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: cal jaeger [REDACTED]
Date: 9/22/19 2:41 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules <DGF-Bear-Cougar-Rules@state.nm.us>
Cc: "Prukop, Joanna, DGF" <Joanna.Prukop@state.nm.us>, "Salazar-Henry, Roberta, DGF" <R.Salazar-Henry@state.nm.us>, "Bates, Jimmy, DGF" <Jimmy.Bates@state.nm.us>, "Cramer, Gail, DGF" <Gail.Cramer@state.nm.us>, "Lopez, Tirzio, DGF" <Tirzio.Lopez@state.nm.us>, "Soules, David, DGF" <David.Soules@state.nm.us>, "Vesbach, Jeremy, DGF" <Jeremy.Vesbach@state.nm.us>
Subject: [EXT] Proposed changes to Bear and cougar rules

I hope that the members of the NMGFD/NMGFC will adopt a reasonable, conservative bear management program. Bears in New Mexico are one of the most vulnerable species in the state because of their low reproductive rates. I am asking you to [review the current bear sow hunt limit and adjust the current number to a lower number.](#)

The current sow limit is 318 for the next four years yet the harvest average for the last four years is 180. The average age of sows being killed is 6.5 years and in New Mexico sows normally have their first cub at 5.7 years. For a healthy bear population to survive in New Mexico, I propose that no more than 100 sows (including depredation) be killed statewide in future harvests until harvested sow ages show that they are rebounding to viable age ranges.

I was not aware until I read a letter to the editor (Abq Journal, 17 Sep 2019) from Craig McClure (Black Bear Bureau) that New Mexico allowed killing of bear cubs that are 1 year old or less. Also I did not realize that hunters were allowed to use dogs to hunt down and trap the bears or cougars and then use telemetry to locate and shoot them like they were in a carnival arcade. This is hunting ?? No, this blood sport and something that I believe most New Mexicans would not support. I urge you to prohibit the killing of bear cubs and the use of dogs to hunt bears or cougars.

Cal Jaeger
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]