



MONTANA OUTFITTERS & GUIDES ASSOCIATION

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May 27th, 2024

Fish & Wildlife Commission
1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, Mt 59620-0701

Support for Region 2 Commissioner Burrows' Proposed Quota Amendments for Mountain Lion Management

On behalf of the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA), I am writing to express our strong support for Commissioner Burrows' proposed amendment to the mountain lion harvest quotas in Lion Management Units (LMUs) 210, 240, 250, 270, and 380. We commend the Commission for considering these amendments, which aim to balance the sustainability of both mountain lion and ungulate populations.

We recognize and appreciate the extensive efforts of the West-central Lion Ecoregional Population Objective Committee (LEPOC) in developing the initial quota recommendations. We agree that Commissioner Burrows' amendment to the department's proposal will positively impact the ecoregion in several ways:

Sustainable Population Management

Commissioner Burrows' proposed amendments are as follows:

- LMU 210: 4 Male, 3 Female, 7 Total
- LMU 240: 2 Limited License, 8 Male, 8 Female, 18 Total
- LMU 250: 10 Male, 8 Female, 18 Total
- LMU 270: 2 Limited License, 10 Male, 10 Female, 22 Total
- LMU 380: 1 Limited License, 6 Female, 12 Total

These adjustments are designed to maintain a stable mountain lion population while addressing the need for effective ungulate population management. By adjusting quotas, we can mitigate the impact of predation on vital ungulate species, ensuring their continued health and availability for hunters and wildlife enthusiasts alike.

Economic Considerations

Hunting is a critical economic driver in our state, providing significant revenue for local communities. These proposed quotas will help sustain hunting opportunities, thereby

supporting the economic vitality of towns that rely on hunting tourism. The multiplier effect of hunter expenditures ensures that dollars spent circulate through the local economy, bolstering businesses and creating jobs.

Ecological Balance

The Commissioner's amendment will not adversely affect the west-central ecoregional lion population. Instead, a slight decline in the mountain lion population is anticipated, aligning with broader conservation objectives. This carefully calibrated approach ensures that neither the predator nor the prey populations are disproportionately impacted, maintaining the ecological integrity of the region.

MOGA fully endorses the proposed amendments of Region 2 Commissioner Burrows to the mountain lion harvest quotas. These adjustments represent a balanced, data-driven approach to wildlife management that takes into account ecological sustainability, economic health, and the interests of various stakeholders. We strongly urge the Commission to adopt these amendments, ensuring the long-term prosperity of both the natural environment and local communities. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Israel', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Will Israel
Executive Director
Montana Outfitters & Guides Association