



February 23, 2016

2016-32

Chad MacPherson, General Manager
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association
(ssga@sasktel.net)

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Thank you for your email attaching the resolution passed at the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association's (SSGA) recent semi-annual meeting. I am pleased to offer the following comments on the resolution that pertains to the Ministry of Environment:

Resolution 2: Cougars

Cougars are already considered a native species in Saskatchewan based on documented observations that show a continuous residency in the province since the late 1800s. All native and naturalized species (i.e., non-native species that have become established residents in the province such as the ring-necked pheasant) are given some level of protection under the Wildlife Act. The actual level of protection is defined in *The Wildlife Regulations*.

These regulations are used to set seasons and to identify animals that are considered vermin and are not afforded protection. Cougars, like most predators, can be killed by landowners if they are threatening livestock or people. Any such kill must be reported to the local conservation officers.

Please contact Mr. Mike Gollop, Wildlife Ecologist at (306) 933-5767 if you have any further questions.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to this resolutions and I look forward to working with the SSGA to achieve our common goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Herb Cox', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Herb Cox

cc: Honourable Lyle Stewart, Minister of Agriculture
Mike Gollop, Fish and Wildlife Branch, Ministry of Environment