



July 27, 2016

2016-177

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

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

I am pleased to respond to Resolution 3, passed at the recent Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association convention, regarding hunting of cougars.

The Ministry of Environment is aware of the increased number of occurrences of cougars in occupied yards and of the recently reported losses of livestock. We are currently reviewing a variety of options that will allow an annual harvest of cougars and help in controlling populations. Hunting with dogs is one option being considered; however, there may be other approaches that could be as effective.

We are also working with Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) to improve the local capacity to remove problem animals. A local predator control specialist on contract to SCIC has been effective in removing one cougar believed to have been implicated with several cattle losses. We plan to continue to expand this local capacity by providing the opportunity for local predator control specialists to train with control staff in other jurisdictions and by ensuring that additional trapping and calling equipment is readily available.

Please contact Mr. Mike Gollop, Wildlife Ecologist, at (306) 933-5767 to arrange a meeting if you wish to further discuss these or other predator related issues

Thank you for bringing forward your concerns and suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Herb Cox'.

Herb Cox