



The Honorable Paul Foster
Chairman, Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Dear Chairman Foster and Commissioners,

On behalf of the Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society, we **support** the Commission's proposed mountain lion harvest reporting requirements and associated biological sample collection as an important step toward improving the scientific understanding of this species in Texas.

Our Society is comprised of nearly 1,000 wildlife professionals and wildlife students who stand ready to serve as a network of scientific information and expertise for the Department's staff and leadership. We appreciate the Commission's continued efforts to advance science-based approaches to mountain lion conservation and management, as well as the thoughtful engagement of stakeholders, including private landowners, hunters, biologists, and conservation professionals, throughout this process.

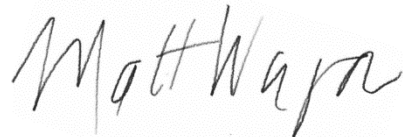
As discussions continue regarding mountain lion management, the Texas Chapter encourages the Commission to remain focused on the collection of reliable scientific data to help guide future decisions. The proposed collection of tooth samples and genetic tissue provides significant long-term scientific value and will help improve understanding of mountain lion populations, age structure, movement, and connectivity across Texas. The Chapter continues to support of ethical, well-managed hunting in Texas, whereby: "hunting, when based on biological information and properly regulated, can be used effectively to manage wildlife in a sustainable and socially acceptable manner" (The Wildlife Society, Hunting Issue Statement, March 2026).

We also encourage the Department to continue building and maintaining trust with private landowners and rural stakeholders, whose cooperation remains essential to wildlife management, habitat conservation, and long-term stewardship efforts across Texas. Continued collaboration and communication with these stakeholders will remain critical to the long-term success of conservation efforts and future scientific research related to this species. We believe the proposed reporting framework reflects a practical and confidential approach that continues to align with the Department's commitment to

science, landowner cooperation, stakeholder engagement, and workable implementation on private lands.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to responsible wildlife conservation in Texas. The Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society remains available as a resource to the Commission and Department as these efforts move forward.

Sincerely,



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CC: The Honorable Oliver J. Bell, TPW Commissioner
The Honorable Wm. Leslie Doggett, TPW Commissioner
The Honorable Anna B. Galo, TPW Commissioner
The Honorable John A. McCall, Jr, O.D., TPW Commissioner
The Honorable Robert L. “Bobby” Patton, Jr., TPW Commissioner
The Honorable Travis B. “Blake” Rowling, TPW Commissioner
The Honorable Dick Scott, TPW Commissioner
The Honorable Timothy “Tim” Timmerman, TPW Commissioner
The Honorable Lee M. Bass, Chairman-Emeritus – TPW Commission
The Honorable T. Dan Friedkin, Chairman-Emeritus – TPW Commission
Dr. David Yoskowitz, TPWD Executive Director
Jonah Evans, TPWD Nongame and Rare Species Program Leader

Reference:

[Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society – Resolution on Mountain Lion Management \(Passed February 2023\)](#)

[The Wildlife Society Hunting Issue Statement \(March 2026\)](#)