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Comments: I recommend mountain lions be protected in the South Dakota portion of the Custer Gallatin National Forest. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks has classified all of the state outside the Black Hills as "unsuitable habitat" for lions. Presumably they mean "socially unsuitable," because lions are documented in the Custer National Forest from time to time, and there is probably enough good habitat there to support one or two female lions with their kittens. There are undoubtedly other small areas of good lion habitat outside the Black Hills. I understand generally the Forest Service signs a memorandum of understanding with the relevant state wildlife agency. However, a recent study by Martin Nie et al. released in 2017 determined that federal agencies do not have to accede to the policies of state agencies.

<http://www.cfc.umn.edu/bolle/perspectives/wildlife-2017.php>