

COLORADO WILDLIFE COMMISSION POLICY

Title: **Mammalian Predator Management Policy**
Effective Date: September 10, 1999
Revised Date: October 11, 2007

I. PURPOSE

The Division recognizes the need to effectively manage predators. The Division also recognizes that the management of predators may include measures to control predator populations when necessary to limit their impact on habitat and prey species. The Division also recognizes predator management to be a viable and legitimate wildlife management tool that must be available to wildlife managers when needed. However, the Division acknowledges that predator control is controversial both publicly and professionally. The purpose of this policy is to provide the Division direction in managing predator populations and to provide guidance when control methods are being considered.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Division staff presented information and received input during approximately ten public forums including Commission meetings and workshops, environmental roundtable meetings and Sportsman Advisory Group sessions. Additionally, the Division received and considered written and verbal comments from interested constituencies.

III. POLICY

When predator populations are inhibiting the ability of the Division to attain management objectives for other wildlife populations and the Division determines that predator control actions are necessary, such control actions will be directed by a species management plan which shall contain information addressing predator management and strategies to implement predator control.

Predatory populations hold ecological, intrinsic, scientific, educational and recreational value and may be managed through habitat manipulation, sport hunting and, where necessary, through direct control. Wildlife managers and administrators implementing predator management and/or predator control strategies will consider ecological relationships that will be affected. Management and control decisions will be consistent with project specific objectives or management plans for prey species, habitat, and other biological and scientific constraints.

The Division, when and where feasible, will rely on sport hunting as the primary method to take predators. When necessary as part of a predator or species management plan, control programs to reduce predator populations will be:

1. Confined to specific and well-defined geographical areas;

2. Targeted toward specific species and, whenever practical, the offending animal(s); and
3. Initiated only after preparation of a predator control plan addressing each of the following issues.
 - a. Explanation of why control efforts for the species may be necessary;
 - b. Whether the plan is within the authority of the Division of Wildlife Commission;
 - c. Proposed objectives and expected results, including the criteria to determine when the proposal will be discontinued (both by failure and success);
 - d. A discussion of potential non-lethal methods and why they would or would not be effective;
 - e. Total estimated cost and funding source for implementation of the plan;
 - f. Discussion of the public participation and input received from interested constituencies and analysis of the public support for the plan;
 - g. Impact of the proposed plan on T&E species, if any;
 - h. Whether implementation of the plan may impact associated species or the re/introduction of any species in the area;
 - i. Whether the plan will impact or be part of a research project; and
 - j. Whether the plan will jeopardize Pittman-Robertson or Dingell-Johnson funding.

Species management plans and specific predator control plans will be submitted to the Wildlife Commission and the Director of the Division for review and approval or rejection.