

FINAL REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-2 - BIG GAME

ARTICLE VI - MOUNTAIN LION

#242 - RIFLE AND ASSOCIATED METHODS MOUNTAIN LION SEASONS

A. General and Extended Seasons

1. Dogs may be used to hunt mountain lion. However, the pack size shall be limited to no more than eight (8) dogs.
2. The hunter that takes a mountain lion shall be present at the time and place that any dogs are released on the track of a mountain lion and must continuously participate in the hunt until it ends. After a mountain lion has been pursued, treed, cornered or held at bay, a properly licensed person shall take or release the mountain lion immediately. No person shall in any manner restrict or hinder the mountain lion’s ability to escape for the purpose of allowing a person who was not present at the time and place that any dogs were released, to arrive and take the mountain lion.
3. Hunt Type, Dates, Units (as described in Chapter 0 of these regulations), and Harvest Limit Quotas.
 - a. Mountain Lion, Either-sex Season and Harvest Limit Quota – In Game Management Units, as follows, the day after the close of the final combined rifle season through March 31 annually:

Units	Lion Harvest Limit Quota
1, 2	5
3, 301	5
4 (north of Co Rd 27 and USFS 110), 5	8
4 (south of Co Rd 27 and USFS 110), 14, 214, 441	5
6, 16, 17, 161, 171	4
7	1
8	4
9	3
10	10
11	12
12	18
13 (west of Hayden Divide Road)	12
13 (east of Hayden Divide Road), 131, 231	5
15	5
18, 27, 28, 37, 181, 371	12
19	5
20	9
21	15
22	17
23	17
24	6
25, 26, 34	7
29	2

Units	Lion Harvest Limit Quota
30	10
31	12
32	5
33	13
35, 36, 361	9
38	7
39, 391	7
40	7
41	5
42	10
43	7
44	6
45	1
46	6
47	1
48, 56, 481, 561	10
49, 57, 58, 581	4524
50, 500, 501	10
51	7
52, 411	10
53, 63	10
54, 55, 551	7
59, 591	7
60	5
61	10
62	9
64	5
65	7 5
66, 67	8
68, 681, 682	6
69, 84, 86, 691, 861	15*
70 east of Colo 141	10
70 west of Colo 141	6
71, 711	9
72	4
73	10
74, 741	6
75	4
76, 79, 791	5
77	6
78	5
80	5
81	4
82	6
83	10
85, 140, 851	24
87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 106, 107, 109, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 951	5
104, 105, 110	5
123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147	20

Units	Lion Harvest Limit Quota
191	8
201	5
211	17
421	10
444	7
461	7
511	4
521	6
751, 771	5
TOTAL	677654

* This reduction from 26 to 15 is contingent upon the Parks and Wildlife Commission approving the associated mountain lion research proposal to be submitted later in 2016. If the research is not approved the harvest limit quota will remain at 26 for the season ending March 31, 2017.

- b. Mountain Lion, Either-sex Season and Harvest Limit Quota – In Game Management Units, as follows, April 1 – April 30 2018 annually:

Units	Lion Harvest Limit Quota
1, 2	2
7	1
8	3
9	1
10	5
11	5
12	1
13 (west of Hayden Divide Road)	3
13 (east of Hayden Divide Road), 131, 231	3
19	2
20	6
21	2
23	1
24	1
29	2
30	1
31	5
32	2
33	4
38	4
39, 391	6
46	4
50, 500, 501	4
51	1
68, 681, 682	1
70 east of Colo 141	4
70 west of Colo 141	2
71, 711	1
72	3
73	4
81	1
87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 106, 107, 109, 111, 112, 113,	5

Units	Lion Harvest Limit Quota
114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 951	
104, 105, 110	3
123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147	5
191	4
201	3
211	12
461	4
TOTAL	121

B. Licenses and GMU Harvest Limit Quota Status

1. A valid mountain lion license is required to hunt any mountain lion.
2. Except as provided in 33-3-106 C.R.S., it is unlawful for any person to purchase or obtain a mountain lion hunting license or hunt mountain lions unless the person obtains a mountain lion education certificate issued by the Division attesting to the person's successful completion of the Division's certified mountain lion education and identification course. Any person required to obtain such a certificate shall have the certificate on his or her person while hunting or taking mountain lion.
3. Prior to each hunting trip in any game management unit, but not earlier than 5:00 p.m. of the day before hunting, lion hunters must check the Available Lion Harvest Limit Report on the Division website or contact 1-888-940-LION (1-888-940-5466), or any Division office toand determine which game management units have not reached the unit harvest limit quota and are open to hunting. It shall be unlawful to hunt in a unit after it is closed.

Beginning April 1, 2019 and thereafter, lion hunters must check the Available Lion Harvest Limit Report on the Division website or contact any Division office to determine which game management units have not reached the unit harvest limit quota and are open to hunting.

C. Special Restrictions

1. Reporting and Sealing
 - a. The taking of mountain lions by licensed hunters shall be reported to the Division within 48 hours after the taking thereof, and except as provided in these regulations, the lion shall be personally presented by the hunter for inspection and sealing within five (5) days after the taking thereof. Mountain lion heads and hides must be unfrozen when presented for inspection. If not unfrozen, the Division may retain heads and hides as necessary for thawing sufficient to extract a premolar tooth. A mandatory check report shall be accurately completed by the hunter at the time of inspection, which shall include certification that all information provided is accurate.
 - b. At the time of the mandatory check, the Division shall be authorized to extract and retain a premolar tooth.
2. The legal possession seal when attached to the mountain lion skull or hide shall authorize possession, transportation, tanning or mounting thereof. No fee shall be required for the inspection and issuance of a legal possession seal which shall remain attached to the skull or hide until processed. Mountain lions shall not be transported,

shipped or otherwise taken out of Colorado until the hide and skull are inspected and sealed.

3. All mountain lion taken or destroyed under Commission regulation #1702 or §33-3-106(3) C.R.S., as amended, shall remain the property of the state and shall be delivered to an officer of the Division within five (5) days. A report shall be given to an officer of the Division at the time of delivery which contains the following:
 - 1) Name(s) of person(s) who killed the animal(s).
 - 2) The county and the specific location of the kill.
 - 3) The species and number of animals killed.
 - 4) The reason for such action.
4. Lions with Kittens – No person shall kill a mountain lion accompanied by one or more kittens or kill a kitten.
5. “Kitten” shall mean a lion with spots.

Basis and Purpose:

Regular Lion Season: Staff is recommending an increase in harvest limits for the November 2018-March 2019 season to 677 lions; up 23 lions from the harvest limit quota of 654 lions approved for 2017-2018. Harvest limit increases are recommended for portions of 2 of Colorado’s 19 lion management areas known as Data Analysis Units (DAUs), specifically L-11 and L-22. No change in harvest limit is recommended in the remaining 17 lion management areas.

April Lion Season: No April 2019 lion season recommendations are being made as part of this PWC regulations package because we are initiating a shift in the lion regulation cycle. CPW will present April 2019- March 2020 harvest limit recommendations at the January 2019 Commission meeting.

Shift in Lion Regulation Cycle: Shifting the presentation/approval of lion regulations during the November/January PWC meetings will allow us to align the license year and regulatory cycles for mountain lion, align lion regulations (harvest limits, seasons, methods of take, other lion provisions) with other big game annual changes (Nov/Jan), streamline harvest limit setting to one set of recommendations per license year, eliminate confusion related to the April season (what year’s license applies in April, how April harvest limits are calculated, etc.), and integrate the previous year’s harvest and tooth age data into annual recommendations without the one-year lag currently experienced.

Summary of Lion Harvest and Mortality: CPW continues to follow the existing DAU-specific harvest and female proportion objectives but presents them at the CPW Regional boundary scale. The below table shows average harvest, total mortality, and gender composition of harvest on a 5-year running average with the most current information available to date: 2012 through 2016.

Mountain lion harvest, total mortality, and female composition analysis using 5-year averages (2012-2016). All data analyses and objectives are based on existing DAUs and lion management plans but are rolled up¹ to the CPW Region administrative boundaries. **The percent of females in hunter harvest should not exceed 45% and the percent of females in total mortality should not exceed 50%.**

Region	Harvest Analysis (2012-2016)			Total Mortality Analysis (2012-2016)		
	Harvest Average	Harvest Objective	% Female in Harvest	Total Mortality Average	Total Mortality Objective	% Female in Total Mortality
NE	29	43	35%	43	55	38%
NW	175	138-199	40%	192	276	41%
SE	107	103-126	41%	119	116	41%
SW	152	111-161	34%	179	165	37%
Statewide	463	395-529	38%	533	612	39%

¹ Existing DAUs L-9, L-11, L-16, L-19, and L-22 have portions that are within different CPW Regions. We account for harvest, total mortality and mortality objectives regionally by assigning each DAU to the Region with the largest proportion of GMUs.

The analyses in the foregoing table indicate that mountain lion harvest, total mortality, and female composition are within the objective ranges. Furthermore, we examined the 5-year (2012-2016) average composition of adult females in hunter harvest in the NE, NW, SE, and SW regions and found that adult females have comprised 20%, 17%, 17%, and 16% of hunter harvest, respectively, during that time. Research suggests levels above 25% adult females in total harvest would correspond to a declining trend. This additional analysis further indicates that mountain lions are adequately sustaining current levels of human-caused mortality at Regional and Statewide scales.

Justification for Changes in Harvest Limits: An increase in harvest limit is proposed for two DAUs:

L-11 Based on the approved Upper Arkansas predator project, lion harvest limits in GMUs 49, 57, 58 and 581 (deer DAU D-16) need to be increased by 21 lions to achieve the lion reduction manipulation described in the [Upper Arkansas predator control plan](#). Therefore, CPW proposes to increase the harvest limit, which is pooled across GMUs 49, 57, 58 and 581, from 24 to 45 (+21). These changes increase the total harvest limit in L-11 from 55 to 76 lions.

L-22 As part of the 10-year mountain lion research project on the Uncompaghre Plateau, which recently concluded, harvest limits were apportioned within the study area that included parts of GMU's 61, 62 and 70; outside the study area in GMUs 61, 62, and 70; and other adjoining units in the DAU (including GMU 64 and 65). The harvest limit in GMU 65 was reduced to meet the off-take required by the study design. Now that the research project has concluded, CPW proposes to restore the harvest limit in GMU 65 from 5 to 7 (+2). This change increases the total harvest limit in L-22 from 41 to 43. Checking Lion Harvest Quotas

In 1997, Colorado changed from a local permitting system for managing lion hunting to the current statewide license with a requirement of checking a phone recording for unit closures. Previously, lion hunters were required to call a toll free phone recording at 1-888-940-LION (1-888-940-5466) for information on whether a Game Management Unit (GMU) had been closed to hunting, based on that GMU's harvest limit being met for the season.

This change to regulation transitions from the current call-in system for checking mountain lion quotas to a live website report. This online report will be easier for CPW staff to administer and will allow CPW to time stamp exactly when the quota was filled and show hunters how much quota remains. For the November 2018-March 2019 season, both the phone line and the website report will be available to help lion hunters transition to the new format requirement. Beginning in April 2019, hunters will be required to check the website report exclusively and the phone recording system will be deactivated. Hunters who do not have access to the internet still have the option to contact a Division office for GMU status.

The statements of basis and purpose for these regulations can be viewed and copies obtained from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Office of the Regulations Manager, Policy and Planning Unit, 1313 Sherman, Room 111, Denver, CO 80203.

The primary statutory authority for these regulations can be found in § 24-4-103, C.R.S., and the state Wildlife Act, §§ 33-1-101 to 33-6-209, C.R.S., specifically including, but not limited to: §§ 33-1-106, C.R.S.

EFFECTIVE DATE - THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 2018 AND SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT UNTIL REPEALED, AMENDED OR SUPERSEDED.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO THIS 6TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2018.

APPROVED:
John V. Howard
Chairman

ATTEST:
James Vigil
Secretary