

C O L O R A D O P A R K S & W I L D L I F E

Colorado Mountain Lion Education & Identification Course Guide



INFORMATION FOR THE MOUNTAIN LION EXAM



CONTENTS

Click the page number to go straight to any page.

- WELCOME 1**
- MOUNTAIN LIONS IN COLORADO2-4**
 - Physical appearance..... 2
 - Range, habitat & behavior 3
 - Mating, breeding & raising young lions 3
 - Mortality in kittens 4
- MOUNTAIN LION GENDER IDENTIFICATION4-6**
 - Other indicators of gender 5
 - Size & shape comparisons..... 5
 - Female & male mountain lion track sizes 5
 - Stride length..... 6
- HUNTERS & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT6**
- REVIEW7**
- LICENSE REQUIREMENTS7-8**
 - Hunter education requirements & exemptions 8
 - Restrictions: child support delinquency; weapons restrictions..... 8
 - Minimum age to hunt mountain lions 8
 - Colorado residency..... 8
- HUNTING LAWS 9-13**
 - Private land use rules..... 9
 - Mountain lion regulations..... 9
 - Legal methods of take..... 10
 - Annual bag limits..... 10
 - Legal hunting hours..... 10
 - Inspection & seals 11
 - Tooth inspection & carcass tags..... 11
 - Evidence of sex..... 12
 - Fluorescent orange or pink..... 12
 - Donating wildlife 12
 - Colorado Revised Statutes: Section 33-6-113..... 12
 - Guides & outfitters..... 13
- IN CONCLUSION 13**

**GET THE
MOUNTAIN LION BROCHURE
ONLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION:
cpw.info/mountain-lion-brochure**

Updated: 3/1/24

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE (CPW)

6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216
303-297-1192
cpw.state.co.us



OUR MISSION: The mission of Colorado Parks and Wildlife is to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state parks system and to provide enjoyable and sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado’s natural resources.

COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE DIRECTOR

Heather Disney Dugan, CPW Acting Director

The Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CPW) receives federal financial assistance from multiple bureaus within the U.S. Department of the Interior. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act (as amended), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (as amended), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior and its bureaus prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability or age. In addition, CPW adheres to all antidiscrimination laws of the state of Colorado. For more information on how to request an accommodation or to file a grievance, please visit: cpw.info/accessibility

NOTICE: Laws and regulations in this brochure are paraphrased for easier understanding and are intended only as a guide. Complete Colorado wildlife statutes and regulations are available at CPW offices listed below and online: cpw.info/regulations

CPW REGIONAL & AREA OFFICE LOCATIONS

ADMINISTRATION

6060 Broadway
Denver, 80216
303-297-1192 (M–F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. MT)

REGISTRATION OFFICE

Boat, Snowmobile, Off-Highway Vehicle
13787 US Hwy. 85 N
Littleton, 80125

ONLY THE OFFICES BELOW can assist hunters with animal checks and taking samples that are related to hunting activities. See the CPW website for a complete list of our parks locations that can also sell licenses, issue duplicate licenses and accept licenses for refunds.

BRUSH

28167 County Rd. T
Brush, 80723
970-842-6300

GRAND JUNCTION

711 Independent Ave.
Grand Junction, 81505
970-255-6100

MONTE VISTA

0722 S. Rd. 1 E.
Monte Vista, 81144
719-587-6900

COLORADO SPRINGS

4255 Sinton Rd.
Colorado Springs, 80907
719-227-5200

GUNNISON

300 W. New York Ave.
Gunnison, 81230
970-641-7060

MONTROSE

2300 S. Townsend Ave.
Montrose, 81401
970-252-6000

DENVER

6060 Broadway
Denver, 80216
303-291-7227

HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS

346 Grand County Rd. 362
Hot Sulphur Springs,
80451
970-725-6200

PUEBLO

600 Pueblo Reservoir Rd.
Pueblo, 81005
719-561-5300

DURANGO

151 E. 16th St.
Durango, 81301
970-247-0855

LAMAR

2500 S. Main St.
Lamar, 81052
719-336-6600

SALIDA

7405 Hwy. 50
Salida, 81201
719-530-5520

FORT COLLINS

317 W. Prospect Rd.
Fort Collins, 80526
970-472-4300

MEEKER

73485 Hwy. 64
Meeker, 81641
970-878-6090

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

925 Weiss Dr.
Steamboat Springs, 80487
970-870-2197

GLENWOOD SPRINGS

0088 Wildlife Way
Glenwood Springs, 81601
970-947-2920

WELCOME



Successful completion of the Colorado Mountain Lion Education & Identification course and exam is **required** for anyone who hunts or pursues mountain lions: hunters, guides, outfitters and houndsmen. The course is also recommended for others who have an interest in mountain lion biology, physiology and behavior.

The exam is available online at cpw.info/mountain-lion-exam, or in printed form at CPW area offices (*listed at left*). A score of 80 or higher is required to pass. To take this exam for certification, you must have a Customer Identification (CID) number. This is necessary for matching your CID number with your lion education certification number — the number you will be given after passing this exam — in the licensing system, so you can be verified and able to purchase a mountain lion license. If you choose to take the practice version of the exam, you do not need a CID number. *See page 9 for more details.*

The Mountain Lion Education and Identification Course is possible through the combined efforts of Colorado Parks and Wildlife personnel and representatives of the Colorado Outfitters Association, Colorado Trappers Association, Colorado Bowhunters Association, Sinapu, Colorado Cattleman's Association, Safari Club International, Colorado Wildlife Federation, Colorado Farm Bureau and Colorado hunters.

THIS COURSE:

- ▶ Presents information about mountain lion biology, physiology and behavior.
- ▶ Explains the importance of determining mountain lion gender for anyone who pursues or hunts mountain lions.
- ▶ Provides instruction for distinguishing male from female mountain lions.
- ▶ Explains the mountain lion management objectives of Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
- ▶ Details Colorado laws and regulations pertaining to mountain lion hunting.
- ▶ Helps mountain lion hunters and others make informed choices, improving the hunting experience.

TO BECOME A CERTIFIED MOUNTAIN LION HUNTER IN COLORADO:

1

Read this Colorado Mountain Lion Education & Identification coursebook.

2

Pass the mountain lion exam online (cpw.info/mountain-lion-exam), or take the printed version of the test at a CPW area office.

3

Get your mountain lion hunting license online (go to cpw.info/buy-apply), by phone (**1-800-244-5613**), or in person at CPW offices and sales agents around the state.

4

Have your verified mountain lion license on you at all times while hunting.

MOUNTAIN LIONS IN COLORADO

Mountain lions are known by many names, including puma, cougar and panther. Scientists consider “puma” to be the preferred common name. Existing only in the Western Hemisphere, they are one of North America’s biggest cats (weighing up to 150 pounds). CPW estimates there to be between 4,500 and 5,500 mountain lions in Colorado.



© Ken Logan, CPW

Mountain lions have, historically, been regarded and treated as unwelcome predators (or “varmints”), with bounties of up to fifty dollars offered for each one taken. This attitude gradually evolved until, in 1965, mountain lions were designated a big-game species in Colorado. Mountain lions are now afforded the protections given to other Colorado wildlife, with other protections to meet the particular needs of mountain lions.

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) are responsible for establishing, reviewing, and setting rules and regulations for hunting mountain lions.

Mountain lions, like other big-game species (mule deer, whitetail deer, elk, moose, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, desert bighorn sheep, mountain goat, bear and pronghorn) are now hunted only for sport, recreation and damage control and prevention. Mountain lion hunting is regulated in Colorado by setting annual harvest limits (quotas) for each Game Management Unit (GMU) in which they can be hunted. Enforcement of these harvest limits is accomplished by monitoring the number of mountain lions reported taken in each GMU as the hunting season progresses, and then closing GMUs to lion hunting when harvest limits have been reached.

Mountain lion hunting usually involves the use of dogs (up to eight in a pack) to tree or bay lions. Hunters must be able to determine the lion’s gender so they can decide whether or not they want to harvest it.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The scientific name given mountain lions is *Puma concolor* (formerly *Felis concolor*), meaning “cat of one color.” Yet, their back and sides are usually tawny to light cinnamon in color; their chest and underside are white; the backs of the ears and the tip of the tail are black.



Bobcat, for comparison.

Males and females vary in size and weight, with males being larger than females. Adult males may be more than eight feet long and can weigh 150 pounds or more! Adult females may be up to seven feet long and weigh an average of 90 pounds.



Lynx, for comparison.

Mountain lions are easily distinguished from Colorado’s other wild cats: the bobcat and lynx. Mountain lions, except for their kittens, are much larger than lynx or bobcats, and have very long tails, measuring, perhaps, one-third of their overall body length.

RANGE, HABITAT & BEHAVIOR

Mountain lions are the most widely distributed cat in the Americas, found from Canada to Argentina. They live in mountainous, semi-arid terrain, subtropical and tropical forests, and swamps. They are found in most parts of Colorado — wherever there is an abundance of prey, rough terrain and adequate vegetation to provide hunting cover. They are active year-around. While mountain lions tend to avoid people, they can and do live in close proximity to humans. They tend to be more active when there is less human presence.

The lion's staple diet is deer. Deer are often killed with a bite that breaks the neck or penetrates the skull. Sometimes the kill is from a "choking" bite that crushes the windpipe. The carcass is fed upon, and the remainder is cached by covering it with leaves, sticks or conifer needles. After digesting its meal, the lion will return to feed again. This process is repeated until practically all edible portions have been eaten. Mountain lions also prey upon rabbits and hares, bighorn sheep, elk, raccoons, turkey — even porcupines! They may also prey upon domestic animals such as livestock and pets. Since deer are the animals most preyed-upon by lions, lions are active when deer are active — at dawn and at dusk — and the lion's activity peaks during the night. (The dawn-and-dusk pattern of activity is known as crepuscular activity.)

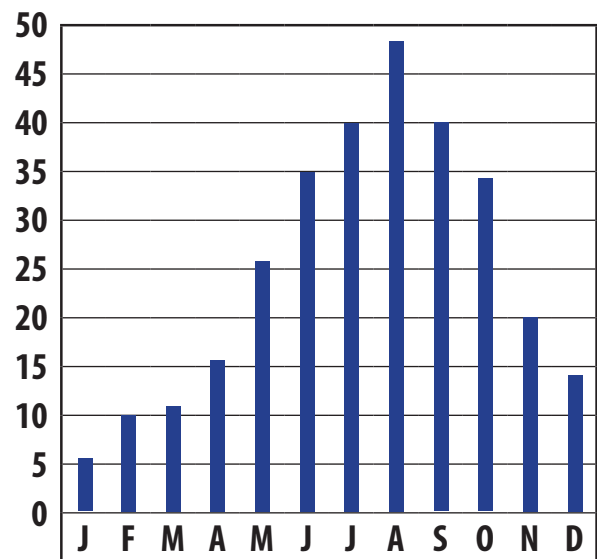
Mountain lions are very difficult to find unless you know what to look for. The most obvious "signs" of a mountain lion you might come across are tracks left in new snow or on soft ground (*more on tracks on pages 5–6*). Less obvious, but just as telling, is scat (feces) a lion has deposited. Mountain lion scat tends to be segmented, broken "cords" or pellets with small tails — or no tails at all. Seeing hair, bones and teeth in the scat is common.

MATING, BREEDING & RAISING YOUNG LIONS

The importance of female mountain lions cannot be overstated: They bear, nurture and teach the young lions that will someday replace males and females that have died.

Females begin reproducing when they're between 1½–2½ years old, and they breed, typically, every other year. Courtship begins when a roaming female in heat makes frequent calls and leaves scent that attracts males. After locating the female, the male accompanies her for just a few days, during which time mating occurs.

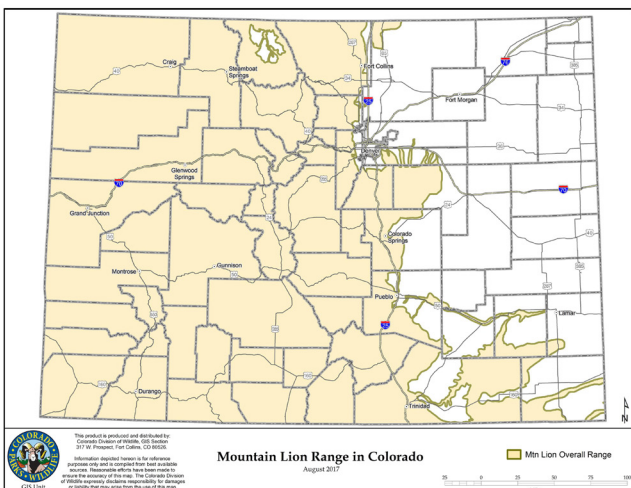
Breeding can take place throughout the year. Most females give birth between May and October, following a three-month gestation period. The average litter size is three kittens.



Mountain lion birth pattern.

Newborn kittens are heavily spotted for the first three months of life; then the spots begin to fade. (Kittens may still have faded spots on their bodies when they are a year old.) At two to three months, the young have been weaned and begin traveling with the mother. The kittens stay with her, usually, until they become independent at about 11–18 months old.

Each year about 50% of adult female lions produce kittens, while another 25% have dependent kittens from the previous year. Thus, about 75% of adult females might have dependent young at any given time.



Range of mountain lions in Colorado.

MORTALITY IN KITTENS



© Mat Alldredge, CPW

Kittens younger than six months old have a 66% chance of surviving to adulthood — with their mother's care. **Orphaned kittens younger than six months old only have a 4% chance of surviving.** Starvation is the main cause of death in orphaned kittens.

Kittens older than six months have a 95% chance of surviving to adulthood — with their mother's care. **Kittens older than six months that have been orphaned have a 71% chance of surviving.**

Seeing a female mountain lion alone **does not mean that she is without dependent kittens.** Females stop producing milk after eight to twelve weeks, so kittens may no longer be in her immediate vicinity after that time. In a Wyoming study, females were captured (during winter) away from their kittens 50% of the time. In Utah, researchers found females with kittens younger than seven months old 63% of the time.

MOUNTAIN LION GENDER IDENTIFICATION

Gender identification is also known as "sexing." Sexing is easiest out in the field when the lion is treed.

MALE ADULT AND SUB-ADULT LIONS have a conspicuous black spot of hair, about one inch in diameter, surrounding the opening to the penis sheath behind the hind legs, and about four-to-five inches below the anus. Between the black spot and the anus is the scrotum and it is usually covered with silver, light brown and white hair. **Look for the black spot and scrotum.** The anus is usually hidden below the base of the tail.



Male mountain lion © Ken Logan, CPW

FEMALE ADULT AND SUB-ADULT LIONS do not have the black spot or scrotum behind the hind legs, below the base of the tail. There is just white hair there. The anus is directly below the base of the tail, and the vulva is directly below the anus. **The anus and vulva are usually hidden by the base of the tail.** Teats of females are usually inconspicuous, even those of mothers with weaned cubs or mothers that have just finished nursing cubs. **Teats are usually not a good indicator of sex in treed lions.**



Female mountain lion © Ken Logan, CPW

Sexing a treed mountain lion can, sometimes, be determined just by looking with the naked eye, but **using binoculars makes sexing lions easier** and less likely to lead to an incorrect determination.









If the lion's position in a tree obscures your view, get the lion to move a bit to give a better angle or position for observing. Try banging a stout branch against the tree trunk, or, if there is snow on the ground, lightly toss a few snowballs toward the lion. Moving around the base of the tree may get the lion to change position as it moves to keep you in sight.

OTHER INDICATORS OF GENDER

BEFORE YOU EVER SEE THE LION:

- ▶ More than one set of tracks often indicates a female with young. Immature males may leave tracks as large as their mother's.
- ▶ Stride length can be measured to help distinguish a mature male from a female or immature male.
- ▶ Track size can help you tell a mature male from a female.

SIZE & SHAPE COMPARISONS

BOBCAT	DOG	COYOTE	MOUNTAIN LION
			
FRONT	FRONT	FRONT	FRONT
			
HIND	HIND	HIND	HIND
<p>NOT TO SCALE. APPARENT SIZES ARE NOT RELATIVE. The front feet of mountain lions, bobcats and coyotes are normally larger than the hind feet.</p>			

FEMALE & MALE MOUNTAIN LION TRACK SIZES

The largest adult males' tracks may be up to 5" wide; the average male will have tracks approximately 4" wide. Adult females leave tracks of 3.5" in width or less. (Note, too, that the front feet are normally larger than the hind feet.)

Another way to determine gender from tracks is to measure the plantar (heel) pad. Since a lion in a walking gait usually places its hind foot on the track left by the same-side front foot, the hind track will usually be the most distinct and easiest to measure. *The plantar pad width for a female adult lion will usually be less than two inches wide; a male's will usually be greater than two inches wide.*

Various factors may lead to incorrect conclusions when "reading" tracks:

- ▶ Nature of the surface the impressions are on: hard, soft, wet and so forth.
- ▶ Pace of the lion's travel.
- ▶ Tracks may have been left by a sub-adult.



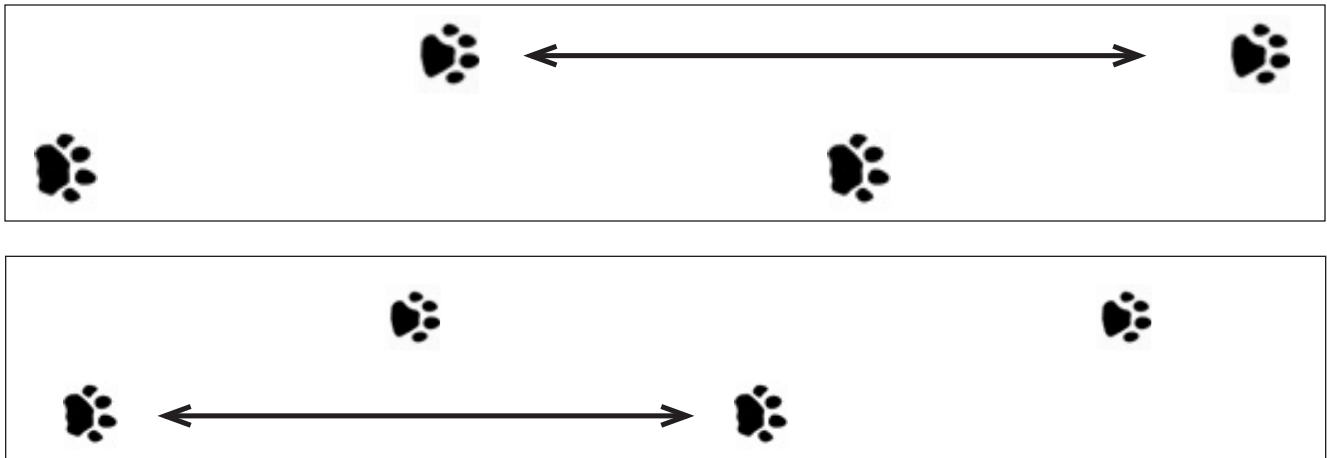
ADULT MALE



ADULT FEMALE

STRIDE LENGTH

When walking in snow, on level ground, mature males will have an average stride greater than 40". Females and young lions will have a shorter stride, measuring less than 40". Illustrations of tracks, below, show a male's stride (*top*) and a female's stride (*bottom*).



Two or more sets of tracks together usually indicate a female with young.

As with reading tracks, stride can be affected by:

- ▶ Nature of the surface the impressions are on: hard, soft, wet and so forth.
- ▶ Snow depth.
- ▶ Pace of the lion's travel.
- ▶ Tracks may have been left by a sub-adult.

HUNTERS & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Hunters play a critical role in wildlife management. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is asking hunters, guides, outfitters and houndsmen to do three things to help ensure that mountain lion hunting is an activity they can continue to enjoy:

1. Contact CPW to learn about mountain lion management goals: Go to cpw.info/mountain-lion and click on the "Lion Population Management (DAU) Plans" link.
2. If the management goal is to maintain or increase the mountain lion population in the GMU, voluntarily refrain from taking female mountain lions: Reducing female harvest is a sound management strategy based on the reproductive biology of mountain lions.
3. Take plenty of time to determine the gender of the mountain lion. ***Make an informed choice.***

GENDER IDENTIFICATION OF MOUNTAIN LIONS WILL HELP:

- ▶ Reduce unwanted female mountain lion mortality.
- ▶ Reduce mountain lion kitten mortality associated with orphaning.
- ▶ Increase hunter satisfaction.
- ▶ Help CPW meet management objectives.

REVIEW

1. Male and female lions have distinct and identifiable external genitalia. (See page 4.)
2. Use binoculars or scopes when sexing a lion.
3. If treed, a lion can be encouraged to move, perhaps providing a better view to determine gender.
4. Tracks, individually or as part of a “trail,” can be used to obtain a preliminary determination of gender. Be aware of the factors that can lead to misinterpretation.

NOTE: Observing a lion urinate can also assist in determining gender. The urine of females comes from under the base of the tail; male urine comes from farther down between the legs, about 4–5 inches below the anus.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

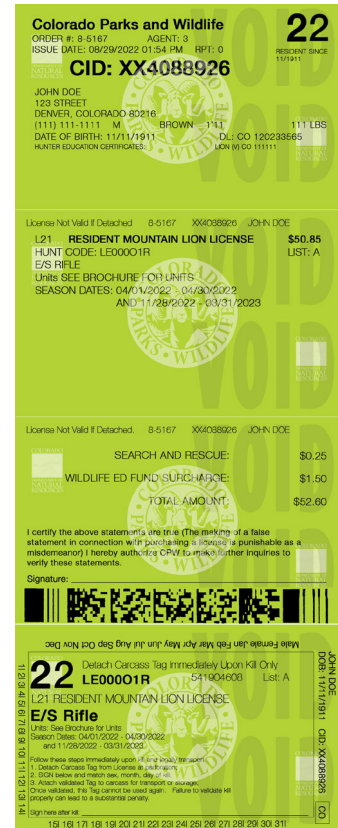
To hunt mountain lions, you must purchase a mountain lion license. *The license must be carried with you while hunting.* Licenses are available online (go to cpw.info/buy-apply), by phone (1-800-244-5613), at most CPW offices or through sales agents around the state.

Colorado residents and nonresidents must also take the certified Mountain Lion Education & Identification course, pass the written exam (with an 80% or higher score) and receive the mountain lion education certificate (issued by CPW) *before* purchasing a mountain lion hunting license. Any person required to obtain such a certificate (hunters, guides, outfitters and houndsmen) will then be able to purchase their mountain lion license, which will be marked with "Lion — V" (for "verified").

Game Management Units (GMUs) close when the harvest limits are reached. **You must check — daily — to make sure the unit you want to hunt is open. To check, see the Available Lion Harvest Limits Report online at cpw.info/mountain-lion no earlier than 5 p.m. the day before every hunting trip.**

The online report will show the harvest limit of mountain lions for each GMU and how many lions have been taken so far in the season. If the full harvest limit has been reached, the GMU will be closed. If the GMU you are planning to hunt (or are hunting) is closed, you must pick a different unit. **It is illegal to hunt (pursue or harvest) mountain lion in a unit after it has closed.**

Mountain lion hunting license



See the current **MOUNTAIN LION BROCHURE** at cpw.info/mountain-lion-brochure or any CPW office.

HUNTER EDUCATION

HUNTER EDUCATION (SAFETY) REQUIREMENTS

1. Anyone born on or after January 1, 1949, must have a hunter education card to hunt in Colorado.
2. A hunter education card is needed to apply for or buy a license.
3. Your hunter education card must be carried while hunting, unless verified and marked with a “V” on your license.
 - ▶ *To get your hunter education verified, take your hunter education card to a CPW office or state park.*
4. CPW honors hunter education cards from other states, provinces and countries.

HUNTER EDUCATION EXEMPTIONS

1. Individuals over age 50 or active duty US military and veterans can obtain a hunter education certificate by testing out of hunter education: cpw.info/hunter-education-test-out
2. An apprentice certificate can be obtained for hunters twice in a lifetime who are at least 10 years old (12 years old for mountain lion hunters) and who must be accompanied by a mentor in the field: cpw.info/apprentice-certificate

Please see the CPW website for more information on hunter education exemptions or to find hunter education courses: cpw.info/hunter-education

RESTRICTIONS

CHILD SUPPORT DELINQUENCY

State law requires a Social Security number to buy a license. It is not displayed on the license but is provided, if requested, to Child Support Enforcement authorities. Hunting and fishing licenses are not issued to those suspended for noncompliance with child support. Any current licenses become invalid if held by an individual who is noncompliant with child support.

WEAPONS RESTRICTIONS

Colorado and federal laws prohibit people convicted of certain crimes, such as domestic violence, from possessing weapons even for hunting. If you've been convicted of a crime, check with the appropriate law enforcement authority to find out how the laws apply to you.

MINIMUM AGE TO HUNT MOUNTAIN LIONS

Hunters must be **at least 12 years old to hunt big game** (big game includes mountain lions). An 11-year-old can buy a license if they turn 12 during the season specified on the license. The license is not valid, however, and the youth cannot hunt, before their 12th birthday. Hunters under 16 years of age must be accompanied by someone 18 or older who meets Colorado's hunter education requirements (*see page 9*).

COLORADO RESIDENCY

For the purposes of purchasing a hunting license, a Colorado resident is:

- ▶ anyone who has lived here continuously at least six months immediately before buying a license, and who intends to make Colorado their home. (Excepting those for whom #2 or #3, below, would apply.);
- ▶ any U.S. armed services personnel, service personnel of U.S. allies, U.S. Diplomatic Service personnel and personnel of diplomatic services of a nation recognized by the U.S. stationed here on permanent active duty orders. “Active duty” does not include personnel in reserve status or the National Guard, or;
- ▶ full-time students enrolled in and attending a Colorado accredited college or university at least six months immediately before buying a license, including students enrolled but temporarily absent from Colorado.

HUNTING LAWS

PRIVATE LAND USE RULES

It is illegal to hunt on private land without first obtaining permission from the landowner or person in charge. If dogs, running a mountain lion, cross onto private property, it is the responsibility of the hunter to secure permission before going on to the private land; if the hunter follows without getting permission, he or she can be charged with unlawfully upon private lands without permission to take wildlife.

This charge carries a fine of \$139.50 (fine plus surcharges) plus 20 license suspension points. A mountain lion taken on private property, without permission, is an illegal take, with a fine of \$1372.50 (fine plus surcharges) and 15 license suspension points. Twenty or more license suspension points can result in loss of hunting privileges for one to five years.

MOUNTAIN LION REGULATIONS

1. Hunters must check the Available Mountain Lion Harvest Limits Report online prior to each hunting trip. *See page 9.*
2. It is illegal to hunt (pursue or harvest) mountain lion in a game management unit after it has closed. *See page 9.*
3. Hunters who have licenses to hunt certain species can legally wear fluorescent pink clothing as an alternative to fluorescent orange garments. Lion hunters are not required to wear fluorescent orange or pink, but may wish to consider wearing it if concerned about visibility to other hunters.
4. It is illegal to kill a kitten or lion accompanied by one or more kittens. A kitten is a lion with spots.
5. Artificial light is illegal.
6. Bait is illegal.
7. Non-electronic calls (hand-held or mechanical calls) are permitted. **Electronic calls illegal statewide.**
8. Dogs are permitted. No more than 8 dogs are allowed per pack.
9. Hunters must be present when dogs are released and must be an active participant until the hunt ends.
10. After a lion is pursued, treed, cornered or held at bay, you must harvest or release the lion. It is illegal to prevent a lion from escaping so that someone not in your hunting party can harvest it.
11. All edible parts of lions must be properly prepared for human consumption, excluding internal organs. At a minimum, this means the four quarters, tenderloins and backstraps. Internal organs are not considered edible meat.
12. Upon harvest, the carcass tag must immediately be detached from the license and attached to the lion carcass, per instructions on tag.
13. Hunting with archery equipment, rifles, muzzleloaders, handguns or shotguns firing single slugs is prohibited within 50 feet on either side of the centerline of state highways and municipal or county roads.



For general Colorado hunting regulations, see cpw.info/regulations.

LEGAL METHODS OF TAKE

1. CENTERFIRE RIFLES OR HANDGUNS: Bullets must weigh a minimum of 45 grains and must produce a minimum of 400 foot-pounds of energy at muzzle. Rimfires are not legal.

NOTE: SMART RIFLES are prohibited, including any firearm equipped with a target tracking system, electronically controlled, assisted or computer-linked trigger or a ballistics computer. Any firearm equipped with a scope containing a computer processor is considered to be a smart rifle.

NOTE: FULLY AUTOMATIC RIFLES are prohibited.

2. MUZZLELOADING RIFLES & SMOOTHBORE MUSKETS: Minimum of .40 caliber for conical bullets and .50 caliber for roundball bullets, and must use a bullet at least 170 grains in weight.

3. SHOTGUNS: Minimum of 20 gauge and firing a single slug.

4. HAND-HELD BOWS: Long bow, recurve bow or compound bow on which the string is not drawn mechanically or held mechanically under tension. String or mechanical releases that are hand-drawn or hand-held without other attachments or connections to the bow (other than bowstring) are legal.

a. Hand-held or hand-drawn bows, including compound bows, must use arrows equipped with a broadhead with an outside diameter or width of at least 7/8 of an inch with at least 2 steel cutting edges. Each cutting edge must be in the same plane for entire length of the cutting surface.

b. Minimum draw weight of 35 pounds. No maximum let-off required.

c. No part of bow's riser (handle) or track, trough, channel, arrow rest or other device (excluding cables and bowstring) that attaches to riser can contact, support and/or guide the arrow from a point rearward of the bow's brace height behind the undrawn string.

d. Bows can propel only a single arrow at a time. No mechanism for automatically loading arrows is permitted.

e. Electronic or battery-powered devices cannot be incorporated into or attached to bow, with the exception of lighted nocks on arrows and recording devices on bows that cast no light towards the target and do not aid in range finding, sighting or shooting the bow.

f. Hydraulic or pneumatic technology cannot be used to derive or store energy to propel arrows. Explosive arrows are prohibited.

5. CROSSBOWS:

a. Draw weight must be a minimum of 125 pounds.

b. Draw length must be a minimum of 14 inches from the front of the bow to the nocking point of the drawstring.

c. Positive mechanical safety device required.

d. Bolt must be at least 16 inches long, have a broadhead of at least 7/8 of an inch wide and have at least two steel cutting edges. Each cutting edge must be in the same plane for the entire length of the cutting surface.

6. OTHER:

a. Methods not listed are prohibited.

ANNUAL BAG LIMITS

▶ One mountain lion of either sex per license year (April 1–March 31); see the current **MOUNTAIN LION BROCHURE** for hunting dates for the mountain lion seasons: cpw.info/mountain-lion-brochure

▶ A lion harvested during special damage seasons doesn't count toward the annual bag limit.

▶ A lion harvested on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation does not count toward the annual bag limit.

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

INSPECTION & SEALS

Hunters must contact CPW, in person or by phone, within 48 hours of a lion kill, providing their name, Customer Identification (CID) number, license number, date and unit of the lion kill, and sex of the lion. (If you get an answering machine, leave a message with this information.)

Within five (5) days of harvest, the hunter must personally present his or her lion to a CPW area office, or to an officer, for inspection and seal (*see the inside front cover for a list of offices*). The hide or carcass must have been inspected, and the seal must be attached, before it can be accepted by a taxidermist or tannery for processing. “Sealing” is the physical inspection of a mountain lion hide or carcass used by CPW personnel to gather information about this secretive animal. A “seal” is a metal tag attached to the hide or carcass after inspection.



Carcass tag from a mountain lion hunting license



Mountain lion seal

ALSO:

- ▶ Hides presented for inspection and seal should not be in a frozen condition. A frozen hide or carcass is very difficult to inspect properly.
- ▶ Lions, or parts of lions, cannot be taken out of Colorado unless inspected and sealed.
- ▶ Lion hides or heads without seals become state property.
- ▶ A mandatory check report must be completed during the inspection.
- ▶ Inspections and seals are free.
- ▶ Seals must stay attached until the hide is tanned.

TOOTH INSPECTION & CARCASS TAGS

At inspection, CPW officials are authorized to extract and keep a premolar tooth. If the head and hide are frozen, CPW may keep them long enough to thaw so that a tooth can be removed. The tooth will be analyzed to determine the lion's age.

Hunters can help by making sure the jaw is propped open with a stick before rigor sets in and by making sure the carcass is not frozen at time of inspection.

The animal's age will be posted on the CPW website 6 months after lion season ends. Ages are posted by seal number, so hunters should record the number to check the age of their animal.

Carcass tags must be attached to the carcass of the lion you harvest, per instructions on the carcass tag.



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EVIDENCE OF SEX

1. **IT IS ILLEGAL** to have or transport a mountain lion carcass without evidence of sex naturally attached. Evidence of sex means testicles or penis of male, or vulva of female.
2. **EVIDENCE OF SEX** is not required when donation certificate accompanies less than 20 pounds of meat or after carcass is commercially processed, cut into portions, wrapped and frozen for storage or stored at licensee's home.

FLUORESCENT ORANGE OR PINK CLOTHING

Lion hunters are **not required** to wear daylight fluorescent orange or pink clothing, but may wish to consider wearing it if concerned about visibility to other hunters.

DONATING WILDLIFE

Donation certificates are required for all donations. Certificates must contain names, addresses and telephone numbers of donor and recipient; donor's hunting license number; species and amounts donated; date of kill; donor's signature. The certificate can be a simple note; no special form is required. Certificate must stay with the meat until the meat is completely consumed. Donor and recipient are subject to all bag and possession limits.

NOTE: A "like license" is a license for exactly the same species, sex, season and method of take as a donor's license.

1. You can donate to someone **WITH OR WITHOUT** a like license:
 - a. Any amount of processed and packaged game meat, anywhere.
2. You can donate to someone **WITHOUT** a like license:
 - a. Up to 20 pounds of unprocessed meat, anywhere.
 - b. More than 20 pounds of unprocessed meat, only at recipient's home.
3. You can donate to someone **WITH** a like license:
 - a. Up to 20 pounds of unprocessed meat, anywhere.
 - b. More than 20 pounds of unprocessed meat, anywhere, only if:
 - (1) recipient's license is unfilled.
 - (2) recipient's carcass tag is on the meat. This establishes recipient's claim to his/her portion of meat and voids his/her license. Donor's tag must remain with his/her portion.
 - c. The entire carcass, if:
 - (1) recipient's license is unfilled, and
 - (2) both the donor's carcass tag and recipient's like-license carcass tag is on meat, voiding both.

COLORADO REVISED STATUTES SECTION 33-6-113: ILLEGAL SALE OF WILDLIFE

1. Except as otherwise provided in articles 1 to 6 of this title or by rule or regulation of the Commission, it is unlawful for any person to sell or purchase or offer for sale or purchase any wildlife or to solicit another person in the illegal hunting or taking of any wildlife for the purposes of monetary or commercial gain or profit. For the purposes of this section, it is deemed to be a sale of wildlife if a person, for monetary or other consideration, provides unregistered outfitting services as defined in article 55.5 of title 12, C.R.S.
2. Any person who violates this section:
 - a. With respect to big game, endangered species or eagles, commits a class 5 felony and shall be punished as provided in section 18-1.3-401, C.R.S. Upon such conviction, the commission may suspend any or all wildlife license privileges of the person for a minimum of one year to life.
 - b. With respect to all other wildlife, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment, and an assessment of twenty license suspension points.

GUIDES & OUTFITTERS

Guides and outfitters must be registered, bonded and insured to operate in Colorado.
They also need permits to operate on public land and must register with:

OFFICE OF OUTFITTER REGISTRATION

1560 Broadway

Suite 1340

Denver, Colorado 80202

303-894-7778

dpo.colorado.gov/outfitters

If your outfitter is arrested for operating illegally, your hunt may be cancelled and your game confiscated.

Protect yourself by verifying your outfitter's registration:

Contact the Office of Outfitter Registration or go to the website of the Colorado Outfitters Association: coloradooutfitters.org

IN CONCLUSION

This course does not provide all the information you need to know to safely and legally hunt mountain lions in Colorado. To learn more, obtain and read a copy of the current **MOUNTAIN LION BROCHURE**, available online at cpw.info/mountain-lion-brochure, or through any CPW office. This brochure is updated annually to reflect any changes in applicable rules, laws and regulations pertaining to hunting mountain lions.

THANK YOU

THIS COMPLETES THE INSTRUCTIONAL PORTION OF THE MOUNTAIN LION EDUCATION AND IDENTIFICATION COURSE.

Thank you for taking the time to study this material.

YOU MAY NOW CONTINUE TO THE EXAM PORTION OF THE COURSE: CPW.INFO/MOUNTAIN-LION-EXAM

It is an interactive, online exam consisting of 20 true/false or multiple-choice questions. Instructions are found at the beginning of the exam. The test can also be taken in printed form at CPW area offices (*listed on inside front cover*). You must achieve a score of 80% (16 correct answers out of the 20) to pass. If you score less than 80% correct, you may take the exam again.

GOOD LUCK!





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OUTSIDE

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