



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Policy and Planning
6060 Broadway
Denver, CO 80216

TO: Members of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission
FROM: Hilary Hernandez, Regulations Manager
RE: Chapter W-2 Final Regulations for the January 2023 Parks and Wildlife Commission Meeting
DATE: January 6, 2023

Final regulatory changes for Chapter W-2 are summarized below. If there are questions about the agenda item below, or if additional information is needed, please feel free to contact me at hilary.hernandez@state.co.us.

Agenda Item 13: Chapter W-2 - "Big Game" 2 CCR 406-2

These regulations amend Chapter 2 - Big Game - of the Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations and implement 2023 mountain lion harvest limits. They also amend season dates for the 2023 mountain lion seasons. All regulation changes are based on the best available biological information and are designed to manage mountain lion toward stated objectives.



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. Electronic calls are prohibited for use in the taking of big game species, except:
 - a. Starting April 1, 2021, mountain lions during open seasons only and for Game Management Units 43, 44, 45, 60, 61, 70 west of Colo 141, 72, 73, and 444 only.
- 4. Hunt Type, Dates, Units (as described in Chapter 0 of these regulations), and Harvest Limit Quotas.
 - a. Mountain Lion, Either-sex Season and Harvest Limits – In Game Management Units, as follows, with seasons as specified starting April 1, ~~2021~~2023:

Units	Seasons	Lion Harvest Limit
1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 21, 22, 30, 31, 32, 201, 211, 301	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	91
4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 33, 131, 214, 231, 441	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	80
6, 15, 16, 17, 18, 25, 26, 27, 28, 34, 35, 36, 37, 161, 171, 181, 361, 371	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	38
7	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	1
8	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	4
9	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	3
19	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November*	5

Units	Seasons	Lion Harvest Limit
	– March 31 of the following year, annually	
20	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	9
29	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	2
38	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	7
39, 391	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	7
40, 41, 42, 47, 421, 471	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	34
43, 44, 45, 444	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	33
46	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	6
48, 56, 481, 561	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	10
49, 57, 58, 581	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	12
50, 500, 501	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	10
51	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	7
52, 53, 63, 411, 521	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	31
54, 55, 66, 67, 551	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	18
59, 591	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	7

Units	Seasons	Lion Harvest Limit
60, 61, 70 west of Colo 141, 72, 73	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	31
62, 64, 65, 70 east of Colo 141, 71, 711	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	48
68, 76, 79, 82, 681, 682, 791	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	16
69, 84, 86, 691, 861	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	4535
74, 75, 77, 78, 741, 751, 771	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	23
80, 81, 83	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	18
85, 140, 851	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	34
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	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	5
104, 105, 110	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	5
123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	25
191	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	8
461	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	7
511	April 1 – April 30 annually Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	4
TOTAL		654674

* The November opening date is the day after the close of the final combined deer and elk rifle season annually.

B. Licenses and GMU Harvest Limit 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 any Division office to determine which game management units have not reached the unit harvest limit and are open to hunting. It shall be unlawful to hunt in a unit after it is closed.

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 completed at the time of inspection.
 - 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. Lions with Kittens – No person shall kill a mountain lion accompanied by one or more kittens or kill a kitten.
4. "Kitten" shall mean a lion with spots.

**MAILING 01/06/2023
Basis and Purpose
Chapter W-2 - Big Game**

Basis and Purpose:

These regulations amend Chapter 2 – Big Game – of the Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations and implement 2023 mountain lion harvest limits. They also amend season dates for the 2023 mountain lion seasons. All regulation changes are based on the best available biological information and are designed to manage mountain lions toward stated objectives.

The statements of basis and purpose for these regulations can be obtained from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Office of the Regulations Manager by emailing dnr_cpw_planning@state.co.us or by visiting the Division of Parks and Wildlife headquarters at 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO, 80216.

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 – THE REGULATIONS HEREIN SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE MARCH 2, 2023 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 ON THIS 17TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2023.

**APPROVED:
Carrie Besnette Hauser
Chair**

**ATTEST:
Marie Haskett
Secretary**