

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: August 12, 2020

ISSUE: Should the following mountain lion regulation changes presented in the final version of the West Slope Mountain Lion plan be implemented beginning in the April 2021 lion season?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

The West Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan was presented in draft form as an informational item at the July 16-17, 2020 Parks and Wildlife Commission (PWC) meeting. The regulation changes necessary to implement the plan were included in the presentation and supporting materials. This issue paper supports these draft regulation changes and will be presented alongside the final version of the plan at the September 2020 PWC meeting. If the plan is approved, the draft regulations will be introduced to the PWC as Step 1 of 2 as an informational item. At the January 2021 PWC meeting, these regulation changes will be an action item, Step 2 of 2 of the traditional lion regulation cycle. New harvest limit groups proposed for implementation on April 1, 2021 have been defined below in #1. Proposed regulations #2-#3 apply to the new harvest limit groups defined in #1. New 2021 West Slope harvest limits proposed in the West Slope plan will be introduced under the traditional regulatory cycle in January 2021 along with Front Range harvest limit recommendations (*status quo*).

- 1) Harvest Limit groups (Chapter W-2, #242 A.3.): West Slope (NW and SW Regions) harvest limit groups currently in regulation would change to what is outlined below. Remaining harvest limit groups on the Front Range (NE and SE Regions) would remain *status quo*, though GMUs 82 and 83 are added to the below harvest limit groups as they are SW units.

Harvest Limit Group Name	GMUs
L-30: West Hwy 13	1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 21, 22, 30, 31, 32, 201, 211, 301
L-31: East Hwy 13	4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, 33, 131, 214, 231, 441
L-32: Upper Colorado River	6, 15, 16, 17, 18, 25, 26, 27, 28, 34, 35, 36, 37, 161, 171, 181, 361, 371
L-33: Lower Colorado River	40, 41, 42, 47, 421, 471
Glenwood Springs Special Management Area (SMA)	43, 44, 45, 444
L-50: Dolores Canyon	60, 61, 70W, 72, 73
L-51: Uncompahgre	62, 64, 65, 70E, 71, 711
L-52: North Fork	411, 52, 53, 63, 521
L-53: Gunnison Basin	54, 55, 66, 67, 551
L-54: San Luis Valley North	68, 76, 79, 82, 681, 682, 791
L-55: San Juan	74, 75, 77, 78, 741, 751, 771
L-56: San Luis Valley South	80, 81, 83

- 2) Electronic calls (Chapter W-0, #004 A.3.b): Electronic calls will be legal for mountain lion hunting during open seasons only for harvest limit group L-50 (GMUs 60, 61, 70W, 72, and 73) and in the Glenwood Springs SMA (GMUs 43, 44, 45, and 444).

- 3) April season (Chapter W-2, #242 A.3.): The only West Slope harvest limit group with an open April season in the first 3 years of management under the West Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan (April 2021-April 2023) will be the Glenwood Springs SMA (GMUs 43, 44, 45, and 444).
- 4) ~~Concurrent season: In the Glenwood Springs Special Management Area (SMA), a mountain lion hunting opportunity will be created that runs concurrently with the four regular deer and elk rifle seasons. Hound hunting will not be legal during this time; all other lion regulations would apply. Lion harvest during this season would be applied to the GMU group harvest limit. New regulation language needs to be created in Chapter W-2 to support the concurrent season. Commission approval of the West Slope Lion Management Plan justifies the creation of this new language.~~

STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:

***IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.**

This issue paper represents the regulations that were put forth in the West Slope lion management plan draft. Therefore, these proposed regulations were explicitly part of the later phases of public outreach and draft plan review process. The process of reviewing the draft plan included 6 weeks of online comment, outreach to stakeholder groups, county commissions and land management agencies. Additionally, these regulations were presented at the July 2020 PWC meeting so interested parties were also notified and provided an opportunity for input as part of that process.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred Alternative***: Revise mountain lion regulations for the season beginning in April 2021 to implement the aforementioned proposed changes (#1-#3) approved in the West Slope Mountain Lion Management Plan.
2. Status quo.

Issue Raised by:	Mark Vieira
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	Chick, Romatzke, DeWalt, Banulis, Wait, NW region AWMs and biologist, SW region AWMs and biologists
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Brian Dreher
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Terrestrial
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO