

**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.~~

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 Limits – In Game Management Units, as follows, with seasons as specified starting ~~April 1, 2023~~ mid November 2024:

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	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	1
8	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	4
9	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	3
19	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	5

<b>Units</b>	<b>Seasons</b>	<b>Lion Harvest Limit</b>
20	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	9
29	<del>April 1 – April 30 annually</del> Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	2
38	<del>April 1 – April 30 annually</del> Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	7
39, 391	<del>April 1 – April 30 annually</del> 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, <u>431</u> , 444	<del>April 1 – April 30 annually</del> Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	33
46	<del>April 1 – April 30 annually</del> Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	6
48, 56, 481, 561	<del>April 1 – April 30 annually</del> 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	<del>April 1 – April 30 annually</del> Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	10
51	<del>April 1 – April 30 annually</del> 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	<del>April 1 – April 30 annually</del> Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	7
60, 61, 70 west of Colo 141, 72, 73	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	31

<b>Units</b>	<b>Seasons</b>	<b>Lion Harvest Limit</b>
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	35
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	<del>April 1 – April 30 annually</del> Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	5
104, 105, 110	<del>April 1 – April 30 annually</del> 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	<del>April 1 – April 30 annually</del> Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	25
191	Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	8
461	<del>April 1 – April 30 annually</del> Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	7
511	<del>April 1 – April 30 annually</del> Mid November* – March 31 of the following year, annually	4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>674</b>

\* 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.

**Basis and Purpose:**

These regulations amend Chapter 2 – Big Game – of the Parks and Wildlife Commission Regulations and implement the 2024 mountain lion harvest limits and season dates. All regulation changes are based on the best available biological and social information and are designed to manage mountain lion toward stated objectives.

**Removing electronic calls as a legal method of take for mountain lions**

In April 2021, electronic calls were legalized for hunting mountain lions in a small subset of GMUs (43, 44, 45, 60, 61, 70 west of Colo 141, 72, 73, and 444) associated with the implementation of the West Slope Lion Management Plan. Use of electronic calls was intended to address conflict lions near residential areas while helping to reach harvest objectives. However, in the 2+ full lion seasons since this regulation went into place only 3 lions have been harvested with electronic calls. As stated in the West Slope Lion Plan, CPW committed to assessing the efficacy of electronic calls in contributing to harvest. While electronic calls remain a possible tool for managers to consider, it appears at this time not to be a meaningful contributor to the specific harvest goals laid out in the Plan in the areas where it was legalized.

**Removing April season dates for mountain lion**

Given that the annual harvest during April mountain lion seasons is very low, the desire for annual consistency in lion season dates for outfitter and participant planning, as well as the administrative burden required to set an April season opening date in just two DAUs and 3 GMU groups, CPW is recommending closing the April season in the few remaining unit groups that were open in 2023.

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](mailto: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 - THESE REGULATIONS SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2024 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 10TH DAY OF JANUARY 2024.**

**APPROVED:**

**Dallas May  
Chair**

**ATTEST:  
Karen Bailey  
Secretary**

## FINAL REGULATIONS - CHAPTER W-0 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

## ARTICLE IV - MANNER OF TAKING WILDLIFE

## #004 - AIDS IN TAKING WILDLIFE

- A. Aids Used in Taking Big Game, Small Game and Furbearers - Except as expressly authorized by these regulations, the use of baits and other aids in hunting or taking big game, small game and furbearers is prohibited.
1. Baits
    - a. Furbearers may be taken with the aid of baiting. Where permitted, baits shall consist solely of material of animal or plant origin and shall not contain any materials of metal, glass, porcelain, plastic, cardboard or paper. Wildlife used as bait shall be the carcass, or parts thereof, of legally taken furbearers, carp, shad, white and longnose suckers, and nonedible portions of legally obtained game mammals, birds and game fish.
  2. Dogs
    - a. Use of dogs in the taking of wildlife is prohibited except as authorized in Commission Regulations. (See also: §33-4-101.3, C.R.S.)
      1. Dogs may be used to hunt or take mountain lion, small game, waterfowl, and furbearers, only as an aid to pursue, bring to bay, retrieve, flush or point, but not otherwise. Except as provided in (3) of this subsection, dogs shall not be used to hunt or take cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hares, and tree squirrels where a regular deer, elk, pronghorn or moose season is in progress.
      2. A leashed dog may be used as an aid in locating and recovering wounded big game wildlife, except for black bears, with the purchase of an annual tracking permit. Tracking permits can be purchased for \$40.00 from any Colorado Parks and Wildlife Office by the dog handler. Prior to using the permit, the dog handler must notify a Colorado Parks and Wildlife Office and provide the following information: the dog handler's name, hunter's name (if different than the handler), hunter's CID number, location of use, species to recover, and time of use. Within five business days of using the permit, the handler must also notify the Division regarding whether they recovered the carcass. A dog may only be used to pursue or locate wounded big game during legal big game hunting hours. Provided however, that such pursuit may continue after legal big game hunting hours if the handler contacts and obtains the permission of a Wildlife Officer prior to continuing such pursuit. In acting on any such request, the Wildlife Officer shall consider the general public safety and may authorize the dispatch of the wounded animal after legal hunting hours. The dog must be leashed at all times and can not be used to kill, chase, or harass wildlife. The properly licensed hunter is required to be present while the dog is tracking and the animal must be dispatched by the hunter using a legal method of take based on their license. The dog handler is required to wear daylight fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink while tracking, unless the handler is tracking an animal shot on an archery license.
      3. Organized dog pursuit events involving the hunting of rabbits or hares conducted by state or nationally-recognized sporting associations may be conducted on private lands or public lands not concurrently open to big game hunting during the extended dog pursuit season for such species.
      4. A valid small game license is required for all dog handlers participating in any dog pursuit event involving the hunting of rabbits or hares, in accordance with regulation #004(A)(2)(a)(3).
  3. Other Aids
    - a. Mechanical calls may be used to take all species of wildlife during established seasons.

- b. Except as otherwise provided in these regulations, electronic calls may only be used as an aid in taking ~~the following species:~~
    - ~~1. Furbearers;~~
    - ~~2. 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.~~
  - c. Decoys may be used.
  - d. European ferret may be used as an aid in taking small game only in conjunction with hawking. All ferrets used in this activity must be neutered, permanently tattooed on the left inguinal area and dyed along one-fourth (1/4) of their body length for easy field identification.
  - e. Manner of take accommodations may be issued to persons with disabilities, in accordance with #1680.
- B. It shall be unlawful to hunt any game birds, small game mammals or furbearers, with a centerfire rifle larger than .23 caliber during the regular deer and elk seasons west of Interstate 25, unless the hunter holds an unfilled deer or elk license for the season he is hunting.
- C. It shall be unlawful to use a drone to look for, scout, or detect wildlife as an aid in the hunting or taking of wildlife.
- 1. For the purposes of this regulation, drone shall be defined as including, without limitation, any contrivance invented, used or designed for navigation of, or flight in the air that is unmanned or guided remotely. A drone may also be referred to as “Unmanned Aerial Vehicle” (UAV) or “Unmanned Aerial Vehicle System” (UAVS).
- D. Smart Rifles
- 1. All firearms used to take or attempt to take wildlife shall be fired only by humanly controlled, manually-operated mechanical triggers. No person shall use a smart rifle to take or attempt to take wildlife.
  - 2. **“Smart Rifle”** means any firearm that is equipped with one or more of the following:
    - a. A target tracking system;
    - b. An electronically-controlled, electronically-assisted, or computer-linked trigger;
    - c. A ballistics computer.
- E. Live-Action Game Cameras
- 1. No person shall use a live-action camera to locate, surveil, or aid or assist in any attempt to locate or surveil any game wildlife for the purpose of taking or attempting to take said wildlife during the same day or following day.
  - 2. **“Live-Action Game Camera”** means any device capable of recording and transmitting photographic or video data wirelessly to a remote device, such as a computer or smart phone. “Live-action game camera” does not include game cameras that merely record photographic or video data and store such data for later use, as long as the device cannot transmit data wirelessly.
- F. **Aircraft**, by permit only.
- 1. The Division may issue permits for the taking wildlife by aircraft when it is determined by the Director that such a permit is necessary for the protection of wildlife populations or for depredation purposes. Applicants shall fill out applications furnished by the Division and shall give such information thereon as may be required by the Division; including, if requested, a map of the area where control of animal damage is needed.
  - 2. Permits shall not be issued for longer than a thirty (30) day period. A permit may, however, be renewed without submitting a new application unless deemed necessary by the Director. Any such permit may be revoked by the Director at any time. Permittees shall abide by restrictions and conditions set forth on the permit.
  - 3. Permits to use aircraft will be issued only upon authority of the Director.
  - 4. Reporting.

- i. Within ten (10) days after expiration of an aircraft permit the permittee shall file a report on forms provided by the Division. The report shall contain all information the Division may request, including but not limited to: a) number of wildlife killed, b) location of each kill, and c) number of hours flown.



**Basis and Purpose:**

**Removing electronic calls as a legal method of take for mountain lions**

In April 2021, electronic calls were legalized for hunting mountain lions in a small subset of GMUs (43, 44, 45, 60, 61, 70 west of Colo 141, 72, 73, and 444) associated with the implementation of the West Slope Lion Management Plan. Use of electronic calls was intended to address conflict lions near residential areas while helping to reach harvest objectives. However, in the 2+ full lion seasons since this regulation went into place only 3 lions have been harvested with electronic calls. As stated in the West Slope Lion Plan, CPW committed to assessing the efficacy of electronic calls in contributing to harvest. While electronic calls remain a possible tool for managers to consider, it appears at this time not to be a meaningful contributor to the specific harvest goals laid out in the Plan in the areas where it was legalized.

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](mailto:dnr_cpw_planning@state.co.us) or by visiting the Division of Parks and Wildlife headquarters at 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO, 80216.

**The statutory authority for these regulations includes, but is not limited to:**

- § 24-4-103, C.R.S.
- § 33-1-105(1)(c), C.R.S. (Commission has the power to “Construct or otherwise establish public facilities and conveniences at any site or on any land in which the commission holds an interest ... and, when appropriate, make reasonable fees or charges for their use....”).
- §§ 33-1-101 to 33-6-209, C.R.S., particularly §§ 33-1-105, -106, -107, and 33-4-102, C.R.S.
- § 33-9-102, C.R.S.

**EFFECTIVE DATE – THE REGULATIONS HEREIN SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2024 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 10TH DAY OF JANUARY 2024.**

**APPROVED:  
Dallas May  
Chair**

**ATTEST:  
Karen Bailey  
Secretary**