

**MOUNTAIN LION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES  
FOR  
LION DAU L-13  
GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS  
50, 500, & 501**

Prepared for:  
Colorado Division of Wildlife  
Northeast Region

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**DESCRIPTION OF MANAGEMENT AREA AND HABITAT**

DAU L-13 is located in central Colorado. It includes South Park and the mountains surrounding it.

This lion DAU includes one of Colorado's intermountain parks. Elevation ranges from approximately 7,500 feet along the South Platte River near Cheeseman Reservoir to over 13,000 feet on the Continental Divide. Vegetation includes mountain grasslands, subalpine forests, riparian, and alpine tundra.

No estimate or studies of the lion population have been done in this DAU. It is believed that lion numbers have been stable over the last 10 years. Deer numbers are relatively low in this DAU, but elk and mountain sheep are also present. There has been some lion predation on the mountain sheep population, but it has not been enough to effect mountain sheep population trends. This DAU probably has relatively low mountain lion numbers considering low deer densities, a mountain sheep population declining due to disease, low harvest of lions, and low frequency of lion tracks.

**TOTAL LION HARVEST OBJECTIVE:** The harvest has ranged from 2 to 4 lions annually over the last 10 years with an average of 3. The current quota is 20 and is never filled. Since quotas are not filled, there is no reason to increase them. The current quota allows for unlimited lion hunting opportunity.

**LION DAMAGE OBJECTIVE:** Game damage payments have been low in this DAU, averaging under \$350 per year. The damage objective should be to keep damage under \$1,000 per year. If this objective is exceeded, actions should be taken to reduce damage payments. Actions could include; increase education on methods people can take to protect their livestock and pets, and target individual lions causing damage for removal by trap and transplant or by lethal means.

Increasing hunter harvest is not a method to reduce lion damage or lion-human conflicts. Quotas are not met currently, so in effect, lion hunting is unlimited in this DAU. Hunters will be used to remove lions causing damage or conflicts whenever possible.

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**LION-HUMAN CONFLICTS:** Lion-human conflicts are very low in DAU L-13. No conflicts have been reported in the last 2 years. This is probably due to low lion density and a moderate, although increasing, human population. The goal should be to keep lion-human conflicts low and under 5 per year. This may become a challenge as the human population increases in the next decade. If conflicts increase, then the situation will be reviewed to determine how to reduce conflicts.

**LION IMPACTS ON OTHER WILDLIFE:** There is little, if any, negative impacts on other wildlife species in this DAU. Lion densities are believed to be low. There is evidence of lion predation on the Tarryall bighorn sheep herd. However, mortality due to lion predation is insignificant in comparison to the pneumonia die off that has occurred in this sheep herd in the last 2 years.

The deer herd in the area is small due to habitat characteristics. High elevation grassland and timbered habitats favor elk and bighorn sheep over deer. Little is known about the effect of lion predation on deer in this DAU.