

**MOUNTAIN LION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES  
FOR  
LION DAU L-23  
GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS  
70, 71, & 711**

Prepared for:  
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West Region

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**DESCRIPTION OF MANAGEMENT AREA AND HABITAT**

This DAU is in the southwestern part of Colorado, and includes parts of Montrose, San Miguel, Dolores, and Montezuma Counties. This DAU has the 7th highest lion harvest in the state (6% of the total), the 12th highest game damage payments (2% of total), and had no human-lion conflict reports in 1997.

Mountain lions are primarily an opportunistic carnivore, meaning they will eat a variety of animal matter depending on availability and season of year. Seasonally, they will catch and kill a variety of wildlife species, including big game, small game, and non-game animals. Mountain lions are classified as a big game animal, and their populations are primarily managed through sport harvest and natural self-regulation. Specific targeted control of mountain lion populations may be warranted in special situations, and can be initiated under the Mammalian Predator Management Policy of the Colorado Wildlife Commission (September 1999).

**TOTAL LION HARVEST OBJECTIVE:** This DAU has averaged 18 lions harvested per year, 1988-1998, with a range of 5-25. The proportion of females in the harvest has ranged from 20-58%, and averaged 36%. Sport harvest has accounted for 95% of the harvest, while non-sport harvest has ranged from 0-4 per year. The objective total harvest for this DAU should be a maximum of 25 for a 3-year average. The quota in 2000 is 33.

**TOTAL LION DAMAGE OBJECTIVE:** Damage payments in this DAU have averaged \$1,337 per year, FY 88-89 to FY98-99. Damage payments have been significantly lower except for FY96-97 when a \$5,000 payment was made for losses to a captive wildlife owner. This DAU should be managed to keep damage payments below \$3,000 per year for a 3-year average. When that number is reached, an investigator/adjuster could be hired to verify claims.

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