

**MOUNTAIN LION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES
FOR
LION DAU L-24
GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS
72 & 73**

Prepared for:
Colorado Division of Wildlife
West Region

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DESCRIPTION OF MANAGEMENT AREA AND HABITAT

This DAU is in the extreme southwestern part of Colorado, and includes all of Montezuma County and part of Dolores County. This DAU has the 10th highest lion harvest in the state (4% of the total), the 6th highest game damage payments (5% of total), and had 1 human-lion conflict report 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. Mountain lions do have impacts on other wildlife species populations, but control of another wildlife species population has not been documented scientifically, rather, mountain lions are one of many factors that may slow the recovery of small populations or accelerate the decline of small populations. Specific targeted control of mountain lion populations may be warranted in special situations.

TOTAL LION HARVEST OBJECTIVE: This DAU has averaged 12 lions harvested per year, 1988-1998, with a range of 8-19. The proportion of females in the harvest has ranged from 22-69%, and averaged 39%. Sport harvest has accounted for 85% of the harvest, while non-sport harvest has ranged from 1-6 lions per year. The objective total harvest for this DAU should be a maximum of 14 for a 3-year average. The quota in 2000 is 14

TOTAL LION DAMAGE OBJECTIVE: Damage payments in this DAU have averaged \$3,887 per year, FY88-89 to FY98-99. Damage payments have been significantly lower except for FY93-94 when a \$10,000 payment was made for horse losses. This DAU should be managed to keep damage payments below \$4,200 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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