

SPECIES: Mountain Lion

Goal: Manage the mountain lion population, its numbers and distribution, as an important part of Arizona's fauna and to provide mountain lion hunting recreation opportunity while maintaining existing occupied habitat and the present range of mountain lions in Arizona.

MOUNTAIN LION APPROACHES

1. Maintain annual harvest of 250 or greater (including depredation take). Use age and sex harvest data to assure that populations remain at sustainable levels.
 - Hunters harvested 313 mountain lions in 2016, compared to 324 in 2015. An additional 15 lions were reported harvested under the depredation statute (ARS 17-302) and 9 reported as other (road kill, nuisance lethal removal, illegal take).
 - From 2012-2016 Arizona hunters have harvested an average of 281 mountain lions annually, with a range of 233-324.
 - In 2016, female mountain lions represented 50% ($n = 156$) of the total hunter harvest ($n = 313$).
2. Provide recreational opportunity for 6,000 or more hunters per year.
 - In 2016, the Department provided mountain lion recreational opportunity to 10,957 hunters. Many that purchase lion tags do so hoping to encounter a mountain lion during other hunts. Incidental harvest represents a small percentage of annual mountain lion harvest.
3. Maintain existing occupied habitat, with emphasis on retention of medium and high quality habitat and maintain linkages between habitats.
 - The distribution of reported hunter, depredation kills, research effort and incidental surveys support the accomplishment of this objective.
4. Maintain a complete database from all harvest sources, through a mandatory checkout system, including age, sex, and harvest location to index population trends.
 - We maintain a complete database for harvested lions from 1981 to the present. All hunter-harvested mountain lions must be physically checked by the Department.
5. Identify important habitats and travel corridors for lion populations. Ensure protection and improvement where possible, through cooperation with land management agencies and other landowners; manage from a landscape perspective (1.A.1-1.A.6, 2.D.1-2.D.3).
 - A number of research studies and monitoring projects are collecting ancillary movement information throughout Arizona's mountain lion range.
 - Contracts Branch developed a roadkill collector application for recording wildlife killed by vehicle collisions. These data along with mountain lion movement data collected from various studies across the state will help to inform development and transportation projects.
6. Determine population characteristics on a Lion Management Area (LMA) basis. The Department may need to manage for lower population levels prior to initiating translocations of other game species or following prey population declines or disease outbreaks (1.A.1-1.A.6).
 - Efforts continue for determining population relatedness using genetic samples obtained from the hunter harvest and radio-marked animals.
 - We have evaluated our current mountain lion management strategies and propose that Arizona be divided into Mountain Lion Management Zones to better manage regional

Job Title: Game Management, Subsection B
Game Management
Mountain Lion

mountain lion populations and distribute harvest beginning in the 2018-2019 mountain lion season. A management zone may consist of a single unit or grouping of biologically similar units. Management zones were delineated by natural or manmade barriers to dispersal and may be redefined if data suggests adjusting boundaries would be more biologically appropriate. We are currently using Statistical Population Reconstruction to estimate statewide abundance and management zone abundance to determine harvest thresholds for each zone.

7. Implement hunt structures to increase and direct harvest emphasis toward areas with high lion populations, and where depredation complaints are substantiated, and evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts (1.A.1–1.A.6, 1.B.6–1.B.9).
 - The use of multiple bag limits as a management tool is still in effect. Multiple bag units are evaluated for removal or addition annually on the basis meeting management objectives for recently translocated populations of bighorn sheep, declining populations of bighorn sheep, or bighorn sheep populations below management objectives.
 - The Department offered 7 multiple bag limit mountain lions hunts in 2016-2017. The multiple bag limit was not reached in any hunts.
 - We are evaluating the effectiveness of multiple bag limits and have proposed that they be removed as a management strategy beginning in the 2018-2019 mountain lion season.
8. Continue to increase public awareness of mountain lions and their habits, to reduce conflicts with humans and other wildlife in accordance with Department policy (2.A.1–2.A.6); hunter opportunity will be the preferred method to mitigate conflicts.
 - The Department continues its' public awareness campaign by:
 - Media releases both statewide and locally
 - Distributing the “Living with Mountain Lions” pamphlet
 - Expanding the mountain lion school curriculum education program
 - Developing a mountain lion communication and talking points document for internal staff to deliver a consistent and accurate message
 - Updating our mountain lion website
 - Drafting a mountain lion management plan
9. Manage in alignment with the Department’s Predation Management Policy (1.A.1–1.A.6).
 - The Commission's Predation Management Policy is being used to address mountain lion predation through site-specific predator management plans.
 - Implemented one predation management plan for mountain lions in Unit 16A.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Trends in mountain lion harvests often reflect population growth, stability, or decline in Arizona when compared to hunter effort and tag purchases. Mountain lion population trends usually follow prey population trends and take about 2 generations (4 years) to react to changes in prey numbers. Based on biological evidence that include genetics and harvest trends, mountain lion populations in Arizona are increasing. Arizona’s management strategy is to protect the adult female segment of the population in areas where we are meeting prey population objectives. Should adult female harvest comprise >35% of the total harvest for a group of units that biologically may be combined as a zone, female harvest limits may be established in that zone. Female harvest limits may restrict the legal take to male only or close units to all mountain lion take as appropriate. Using interstate

Job Title: Game Management, Subsection B
Game Management
Mountain Lion

highways as barriers to dispersal, adult female harvest management zones were designed for analyzing adult female harvest. Since implementation in 2011, adult female harvest has not exceeded 35% in any zone.

Two-year mean adult female harvest for the 6 adult female management zones, 2009-2016.

2-Year Mean Adult Female Harvest							
Zone	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
1	15.58%	20.33%	21.25%	18.06%	19.01%	14.94%	13.26%
2	23.81%	23.53%	15.48%	14.86%	19.75%	20.45%	16.08%
3	16.82%	19.23%	29.11%	24.68%	18.67%	19.28%	19.09%
4	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
5	30.00%	20.00%	18.52%	6.90%	13.16%	23.08%	20.24%
6	26.32%	26.09%	27.27%	25.00%	21.74%	20.78%	21.51%

We propose to adjust this so that management zone harvest trends will be managed to keep adult (≥ 3 year old) female harvest $< 25\%$ of the total take. The proportion of adult females in the harvest will be used as one parameter to monitor harvest and establish harvest thresholds. Should the 3-year mean adult (≥ 3 year old) female harvest comprise $> 25\%$ for the management zone, the harvest threshold may be reduced for that management zone. Management zones may close to mountain lion take for the season or a portion of the season if the established harvest threshold is met. We also propose that mountain lion seasons shall open September 15 each year and run through June 15 of the following year and that pursuit-only seasons may be established, if determined appropriate.

Two zones have been used to manage mountain lions in Arizona; the standard and the minimal occurrence zones. The minimal occurrence zone has been used in areas where historical mountain lion populations have been very low or non-existent, and therefore, had a more liberal season structure with a bag limit of 3 mountain lions per hunter per year. Beginning in the 2017 season, the minimal occurrence zone was removed and the entire state is now managed under the standard zone with a bag limit of 1 mountain lion per hunter per year. Daylong shooting hours for mountain lions was also eliminated with the removal of the minimal occurrence zone.

Annual mountain lion tag sales and harvest information, 1977–2016.

Year	Tags Sold		Harvest			Total
	Resident	Non-Resident	Hunter ¹	Depredation	Other	
1977	7355	143	248	4		252
1978	7848	116	229	12		241
1979	7836	102	283	7		290
1980	7697	102	204	2		206
1981	7759	102	191	9	1	201
1982	7979	90	316	8	1	325
1983	6934	70	221	7	1	229
1984	6785	91	184	9		193
1985	7447	76	245	19	7	271
1986	7876	60	191	25		216
1987	8228	76	205	31	5	241

Job Title: Game Management, Subsection B
Game Management
Mountain Lion

Year	Tags Sold		Harvest			Total
	Resident	Non-Resident	Hunter ¹	Depredation	Other	
1988	8396	99	184	24	1	209
1989	3603	67	130	65	1	196
1990	2972	74	188	40	1	229
1991	2959	78	179	25	1	205
1992	2904	87	200	28	5	233
1993	3307	100	186	38	2	225
1994	4070	149	215	32	6	253
1995	4689	170	234	31	1	266
1996	5420	132	225	38	2	265
1997	5521	136	267	47	3	317
1998	6435	155	289	52	1	342
1999	6727	158	246	47	2	295
2000	7316	162	276	53	1	330
2001	7944	165	326	58	0	384
2002	8105	169	264	50	5	319
2003	7942	147	218	63	12	293
2004	8811	153	247	31	1	279
2005	9977	140	204	41	0	245
2006	10770	150	221	36	5	262
2007	10839	156	250	28	5	283
2008	10561	152	265	42	5	312
2009	10330	137	249	29	5	283
2010	10120	145	247	31	7	285
2011	10133	159	288	38	4	330
2012	10759	182	235	37	4	276
2013	10736	215	302	41	1	344
2014	10852	272	233	33	2	268
2015	10485	328	324	33	3	360
2016	10577	380	313	15	9	337

¹ Hunter harvest was derived from mandatory checkout 1987–present.

Job Title: Game Management, Subsection B
Game Management
Mountain Lion

Mountain lion information from mandatory checkout and stock killing reports, 2016 calendar year

Unit	Harvest			Harv. Using Dogs	Hunter Harv.		Adult Females >= 3 yrs	Month of Hunter Harvest			
	Hunter	Depredation	Other		Male	Female		Jan to Mar	Apr to Jun	July to Sep	Oct to Dec
1	4	0	0	3	3	1	1	0	1	0	3
02B	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
03B	3	0	1	3	3	1	0	3	1	0	0
03C	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
04A	5	0	0	2	2	3	0	1	1	1	2
04B	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
05A	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
05B	9	0	0	4	3	6	3	1	0	4	4
06A	8	0	0	5	6	2	0	2	1	0	5
06B	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
7	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
8	3	0	0	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	2
9	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	1
10	10	0	0	6	5	5	2	7	0	0	3
12	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
12A	9	0	0	9	8	1	0	2	1	0	6
13A	7	0	1	4	3	5	0	4	0	0	4
13B	4	0	0	4	3	1	1	3	0	0	1
15A	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
15B	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
15C	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
16AN	4	0	2	2	3	3	1	1	2	0	3

Job Title: Game Management, Subsection B
Game Management
Mountain Lion

17A	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
17B	17	0	0	15	7	10	4	5	4	1	7
18A	4	0	0	4	3	1	0	0	1	0	3
18B	4	0	0	2	1	3	1	2	0	1	1
18BS	4	0	0	2	1	3	1	0	1	0	3
19A	5	0	0	2	3	2	1	4	0	0	1
19B	3	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	1
20A	4	0	0	4	2	2	2	2	0	0	2
20B	4	0	0	4	2	2	1	4	0	0	0
20C	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
21	5	0	0	3	0	5	1	3	0	1	1
22	9	0	0	5	3	6	1	2	0	1	6
23	16	0	1	11	8	8	2	8	3	0	5
24A	11	0	0	4	7	4	2	7	0	2	2
24B	8	0	0	4	2	6	1	4	0	0	4
27	16	2	0	9	6	10	2	7	1	1	7
27L	3	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	2	0	1
27U	8	0	0	7	3	5	2	5	0	1	2
28	8	4	0	6	5	3	1	5	0	1	2
29	9	1	0	3	1	8	2	4	1	0	4
30A	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
30B	6	0	0	2	5	1	0	2	1	1	2
31	2	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
32	13	5	0	8	6	7	2	6	0	2	5
33	18	0	1	10	9	10	2	6	3	3	6
34A	13	0	0	10	8	5	3	7	0	0	6
34B	5	0	1	4	4	2	1	0	1	1	4
35A	4	0	0	3	3	1	0	2	0	0	2
35B	8	0	0	7	4	4	3	6	1	0	1
36A	4	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	4
36B	6	0	0	2	4	2	1	4	0	0	2

Job Title: Game Management, Subsection B
Game Management
Mountain Lion

36C	8	0	0	4	3	5	3	4	0	0	4
37B	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
38M	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
41	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
42	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	313	15	9	202	162	159	50	137	28	22	133
Percent	93	4	3	65	50	50	31	43	9	7	42

Job Title: Game Management, Subsection B
Game Management
Mountain Lion

REGIONAL SUMMARY

Region 1

Hunters harvested 43 mountain lions in Region 1 in 2016.

Mountain lions harvested by hunters in Region 1 during 2016.

Unit	MBL	Total # Lions Harvested	Male	Female
1		4	3	1
2A		0	0	0
2B		1	1	0
2C		0	0	0
3A		0	0	0
3B		3	3	0
3C		2	1	1
4A		5	2	3
4B		1	1	0
27		16	6	10
27L	10	3	2	1
27U	8	8	3	5

Region 1 has 2 hunt areas with multiple bag limits; Upper Blue River Hunt Area and Lower Blue River Hunt Area in Unit 27. The Region established both to increase Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep populations with the following site-specific objectives:

The recommended triggers to initiate and/or discontinue the Upper Blue River multiple bag limit hunts are as follows: Initiate and/or continue the multiple bag hunt as long as the estimated sheep population is below 225 or there are two or more consecutive years with lamb recruitment below 35% at the time of survey in October/November. The MBL for this hunt area is 8. In calendar year 2016, 8 lions were harvested from the Upper Blue River multiple bag limit area in Unit 27 (3 males, 5 females). Five of these were taken during the July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 season for which the MBL applies.

The recommended triggers to initiate and/or discontinue the Lower Blue River multiple bag limit hunts are as follows: Initiate and/or continue the multiple bag hunt as long as the estimated sheep population is below 80 or there are two or more consecutive years with lamb recruitment below 35% at the time of survey in October/November. The MBL for this hunt area is 10. In calendar year 2016, 3 mountain lions were reported killed in this MBL area (2 males, 1 female) but only 1 was taken during the July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 season for which the MBL applies.

Region 2

Hunters harvested 48 mountain lions in Region 2 in 2016 which was lower than the prior 3-year average of 54. Sixty-three mountain lions were harvested in 2015 and 41 in 2014. Hunters harvested 19 females in 2016 which was also lower than the 3-year average of 26.

Job Title: Game Management, Subsection B
Game Management
Mountain Lion

Mountain lions harvested by hunters in Region 2 during 2016.

Unit	MBL	Total # Lions Harvested	Male	Female
5A		2	2	0
5B		9	3	6
6A		8	6	2
6B		1	1	0
7		1	0	1
8		3	2	1
9		2	0	2
12		1	1	0
12A		9	8	1
12B		0	0	0
13A		7	3	4
13B		4	3	1

Based on wildlife manager's observations of mountain lion sign throughout the year, mountain lions appear to be well distributed throughout the Region. Mountain lion density varies with the abundance of prey. Based on available prey and rough terrain, Units 6A, 6B, 8, and 12A have the best mountain lion habitat in Region 2.

Region 3

All units in Region 3 are open for mountain lion hunting. Wildlife managers continue to check harvested lions throughout the region during most months of the year. Hunters harvested 62 lions in 2016 which is higher than the previous 5-year average for the region (42). Thirty-eight percent of the females were 3 years of age or older. There are 3 multiple bag areas in the region: Units 15BW/15C/15D, Unit 16AN, and Units 16AS/18BS.

Mountain lions harvested by hunters in Region 3 during 2016.

Unit	MBL	Total # Lions Harvested	Male	Female
10		10	5	5
15A		1	0	1
15B		1	1	0
15C	10	1	0	1
15D	10	0	0	0
16AN	15	4	1	3
16AS	15	0	0	0
17A		2	0	2
17B		17	7	10
18A		4	3	1
18B		4	1	3

Job Title: Game Management, Subsection B

Game Management

Mountain Lion

18BS	15	4	1	3
19A		5	3	2
19B		3	2	1
20A		4	2	2

Units 15BW, 15C, and 15D have a multiple bag limit of 10 mountain lions. There were 2 mountain lions taken in calendar year 2016 but no lions were harvested during the July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 season for which the MBL applies. Region 3 implemented the multiple bag limit to benefit the depressed bighorn sheep population in the Black Mountains. This area is not frequently hunted for mountain lions due to extremely challenging topography and dry tracking conditions. Triggers for discontinuing this multiple bag season structure are based on the following numbers for Unit 15C South: a) the number of sheep observed per hour of survey time reaches the long-term average of 18.67 sheep per hour (2.5 in 2016); b) the observed sheep population exceeds 108 (15 in 2016), and c) 10 mountain lions are removed through any combination of methods in a single year. Region 3 has begun a predator research project that will further the knowledge of mountain lions in this area.

As part of the Unit 16A Predation Management Plan a contract houndsman was hired from December 1, 2015 - November 30, 2017. The contract houndsman removed 2 mountain lions in 2016; 1 male in October and 1 male in November. Three additional houndsmen were hired for 2017. The MBL for Unit 16A North that was added in the fall of 2015 was implemented to assist a depressed mule deer population. Funds are being expended as part of the Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative (WHEI) to increase the amount of open habitat through burning and thinning projects and to increase the reliable water distribution throughout the unit for mule deer. The region is pursuing avenues to decrease predation on mule deer. As part of this effort the region believes that a multiple bag limit for this area would decrease the number of mountain lions in Unit 16A North predating on mule deer and enhance the ability of the habitat improvement efforts in assisting the mule deer population to recover. The region recommended the MBL be placed at 15 lions for 2016-2017 and be re-evaluated next year based on harvest. The triggers for the MBL include; a) an increase in fawn:doe ratio to at least 40, b) an increase buck:doe ratio at or above guidelines (20-30) and c) an increase in deer seen per hour to 16 deer/hour. The fawn to doe ratio this year was 45:100, with a three year average of 42:100. The buck:doe ratio for this year was 38:100. The deer seen per hour is 11.3 in 2016 and was 11.9 in 2015 up from 7.6 in 2014.

Region 3 implemented a multiple bag hunt structure in 2006-2007 in Unit 16A South and 18B South to benefit a translocated bighorn sheep population. The Department released 55 bighorn sheep into Unit 18B South and most have remained. Several sheep have traveled across U.S. Highway 93 into Unit 16A South where there is also a mountain lion population. We documented 6 mortalities out of 20 collared sheep. We could only attribute 1 positively to mountain lion predation. In December 2011, we released 20 sheep into Unit 16A South near People's Canyon. Two of the 9 collared sheep remained within close proximity to the release location. The other sheep spread to Unit 18B South and Unit 44A; some coming back to Unit 16A South. Of the 9 collared sheep, 6 have died, with 4 attributed to mountain lion predation. We transplanted 40 bighorn sheep into People's Canyon in November 2013; we have attributed several mortalities to mountain lion predation. Hunters harvested 2 male lions in Unit 18B South during 2014. Triggers for discontinuing the multiple bag limit include; a) the bighorn sheep herd reaches a self-sustaining level, and b) less than 10% of the bighorn mortalities can be attributed to mountain lion predation.

Job Title: Game Management, Subsection B
Game Management
Mountain Lion

One mountain lion was harvested in this MBL during the 2015-2016 season and 4 mountain lions were taken during the 2016-2017 season.

The Region 3 office continues to respond to nuisance lion reports in various locations. Reports of mountain lions adjacent to housing developments are common due to increased housing density near National Forest lands. We removed no nuisance lions in 2016.

Region 4

For the past five years Region 4 has managed mountain lions under a liberal hunt structure in Game Management Units 39, 40A, 40B, 41, 42, 43A, 43B, 44A and 44B. The annual bag limit was three mountain lions, with daylong shooting hours. Units 16B and 20C were managed under the standard season structure, with an annual bag limit of one mountain lion, and daylight-only shooting hours. Beginning July 1, 2017, all units in Region 4 previously managed under the liberal hunt structure will revert to the standard season structure, as approved by the Commission. Harvest of mountain lions in those units did not increase during the time that the liberal hunt structure was in place. Game Management Units 45A, 45B, 45C, 46A and 46B are entirely contained within National Wildlife Refuge boundaries and are currently closed to mountain lion hunting. Region 4 currently has no Game Management Units with a multiple bag limit hunt structure.

In 2016, three mountain lions were taken by sport harvest in Region 4. Harvest included two lions taken in Unit 20C and one in Unit 42. The liberal hunt structure in place throughout much of Region 4 apparently had no impact on harvest levels of mountain lions. An average of seven mountain lions per year were taken in Region 4 in the five years that the liberal hunt structure was in place (the average includes Units 16B and 20C, which were managed under the standard season structure). Prior to that, the average take was eight lions per year. A number of these units had multiple bag limit seasons in place, prior to the current hunt structure, and the multiple bag was never met. The bulk of mountain lion harvest in Region 4 normally comes from Unit 20C, which is managed under the standard hunt structure. Mountain lions are generally found at very low densities throughout most of Region 4, and because of the arid nature and unfavorable vegetative types, pursuit with dogs is relatively ineffective.

Mountain lions harvested by hunters in Region 4 during 2016.

Unit	Bag Limit	Total # Lions Harvested	Male	Female
16B	1	0	0	0
20C	1	2	1	1
39	3	0	0	0
40A	3	0	0	0
40B	3	0	0	0
41	3	0	0	0
42	3	1	1	0
43A	3	0	0	0
43B	3	0	0	0
44A	3	0	0	0

Job Title: Game Management, Subsection B
Game Management
Mountain Lion

44B 3 0 0 0

Because of concerns about the impact of lion predation on bighorn sheep herds, especially as relates to translocated and important translocation source populations, Adaptive Predation Management Plans are being implemented in two areas in Region 4. These areas are the Kofa Mountains Complex, centered on the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge (Unit 45 and portions of Units 41 and 44BS), and the North Sector of Region 4, which includes Units 20C, 42, 44A, and 44BN. Currently, 27 lions that spent at least a portion of their time within the Kofa Complex have been captured and radio-collared, and 21 have been captured and radio-collared in the North Sector. Under the Adaptive Management plans, lions that are determined to be preying on bighorn sheep at a level specified in the respective adaptive management plans may be removed if they reach “offending” status. During this reporting period, no lions were removed as a nuisance animal under the guidelines of the Units 20C, 42, 44A and 44B Adaptive Lion Management Plan. Five were captured in the North Sector during the past year; three were captured as kittens, only one of which has survived an appreciable amount of time. In the Kofa Mountains Complex, two lions were captured this past year. One of them, a female, was removed from Unit 45 under the guidelines of the Kofa Mountains Complex Predation Management Plan. An additional juvenile female was also captured, but the transmitter failed within two weeks, and it was not subsequently recaptured. All lion captures and removals, and many of the prey selection investigations, are implemented by a State-funded employee.

Region 5

Hunters reported harvesting 107 lions (57 males, 50 female) in Region 5 in 2016. In addition, 1 nuisance mountain lion was removed by AZGFD personnel (1 females), 1 male lion was reported as a roadkill, and 1 female mountain lion was illegally killed. This number is consistent with historical harvests in the region. In 2016, Region 5 represented 34.1% of the state's lion harvest.

Mountain lions harvested by hunters in Region 5 during 2016.

Unit	MBL	Total # Lions			
		Harvested	Male	Female	Unknown
28		8	5	3	0
28S	8	0	0	0	0
29		9	1	8	0
30A		2	1	1	0
30B		6	5	1	0
31		2	2	0	0
32		13	6	7	0
33		18	8	10	0
34A		13	8	5	0
34B		5	3	2	0
35A		4	3	1	0
35B		8	4	4	0
36A		4	3	1	0

Job Title: Game Management, Subsection B
Game Management
Mountain Lion

36B	6	4	2	0
36C	8	3	5	0
37A	0	0	0	0
37B	1	1	0	0
38M	0	0	0	0

Region 6

All units within Region 6, including portions of the metro units, are open to mountain lion hunting. During 2016, hunters harvested 52 mountain lions (21 males, 31 females) and 1 mountain lion was taken illegally. Unit 21 recorded harvests of 5 mountain lions (0 males, 5 females) during the second year of its multiple bag limit hunt structure, following 7 mountain lions (2 males, 4 females, 1 unknown) harvested in 2015. No mountain lions were recorded harvested within the multiple bag limit area of Unit 37B (discontinued July 1, 2016).

Mountain lions hunter harvested in Region 6 during 2016.

Unit	MBL	Total # Lions		
		Harvested	Male	Female
20B		4	2	2
21	12	5	0	5
22		9	3	6
23		16	8	8
24A		11	7	4
24B		8	2	6
25M		0	0	0
26M		0	0	0
37BN*	4	0	0	0

The Region continues to respond to nuisance mountain lion observations, reports, and conflicts, primarily within the urban-wildland interface. There were no nuisance mountain lions removed from Region 6 this year.

Region 6 discontinued the multiple bag limit in Unit 37B North (effective July 1, 2016) as the management objective/triggers were met:

- A viable population of desert bighorn sheep has been established in suitable, but mostly occupied, bighorn habitat in the Mineral Mountains, or
- After a period of 5 years and the determination has been made that the continued use of a multiple bag limit is not beneficial or necessary for the establishment of a viable sheep population.
- The multiple bag limit structure may be reinstated if bighorn population levels decline to or below 30 individuals.

Job Title: Game Management, Subsection B
Game Management
Mountain Lion

In April 2015, Region 6 recommended that a multiple bag limit for mountain lion be approved for Unit 21. The Predation Management Plan and Management Focus Area plan for Unit 21 outline the need to implement this strategy as fawn recruitment rates for both pronghorn and deer have been below guidelines in recent years and perceived to be caused by coyote and mountain lion predation. The landscape scale habitat projects as part of the Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative approved for Unit 21, primarily for mule deer, also outlines the use of predator management during the project timelines.

The multiple bag limit structure for Unit 21 may be discontinued when specific objectives set to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies and actions outlined in the Predation Management Plan indicate:

- Increased pronghorn fawn to doe ratio to >50:100 for the last two years of the project.
- Increased pronghorn population to 350 adults.
- Increased mule deer population in the semi-desert grassland habitat types to meet management objectives identified in hunt guidelines, Management Focus Area and Department plans, goals and objectives.
- Reduced coyote and mountain lion populations in the grassland areas.