

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

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Surveys and Inventories

**Statewide Report
Harvest Seasons 2014 & 2015**



MOUNTAIN LION

July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016

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STATEWIDE REPORT SURVEYS AND INVENTORY

JOB TITLE: Mountain Lion Surveys and Inventories

STUDY NAME: Big Game Population Status, Trends, Use, and Associated Habitat Studies

PERIOD COVERED: August 30, 2014 to June 30, 2016

STATEWIDE

For analysis, Idaho's mountain lion management utilizes 18 Data Analysis Units (DAU) comprised of multiple game management units (GMUs) (Figure 1). Mountain lion seasons and statewide reporting are based on state fiscal years. The 2015 season includes fall 2015 and spring 2016 harvest data. During 2015, 25,460 mountain lion tags were sold, showing a slight increase of 0.7% annually over the prior 10 years. However, additional mountain lion tags were included in each of 21,296 Sportsman's Packages sold in Idaho during 2015. It is unknown how many of these individuals hunted black bear. A total of 3,550 houndhunter permits were sold in 2015, with a 1.4% annual average increase over the prior 10 years.

Few significant changes to mountain lion harvest seasons were made during the report period. A second mountain lion in the bag was authorized for GMUs 4, 4A, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, a portion of 16, 16A, 17, 19, 20, 20A, a portion of 21, 26, 27, 27, and a portion of 28. Seventy statewide nonresident houndhunter permits were authorized for 2015. Not counted in this limit were nonresidents who hunted solely in GMUs 10, 12, 20A, 26, and 27. An additional 40 nonresident houndhunter permits were authorized for GMUs 16A, a portion of 17, 19, and 20.

Hunters are required to report mountain lions harvested within 10 days of kill. Mountain lion harvest has increased an average of 1.2% annually during the past 10 years, with the 2015 harvest of 566 lions the highest during that period. The dominant method for hunting mountain lions is with the use of hounds (46% of the annual harvest, 2013-2015).

Typically ranging between 40% and 50%, the percentage of females in the harvest averaged 41% during 2015. Also typically ranging between 50% and 70%, the percentage of 3 year old and older lions within the male harvest averaged 49% during 2015.

Mountain lion seasons and statewide reporting are based on state fiscal years. During the fall 2015/spring 2016 season (2015), 566 mountain lions were reported harvested in Idaho. Of the lions harvested, 68% were reported killed over hounds, and 23% incidental to other hunting.

Harvest objectives are to maintain a mountain lion population capable of sustaining a harvest of at least 331 lions annually (the 1990-1992 average). This objective has been attained annually since 1991, with the most recent 3-year average of 535 lions 62% higher than the minimum. Males comprised 55% of the mountain lion harvest (261 lions) during the 2014 season and 59% (335 lions) during the 2015 season (Figure 2).

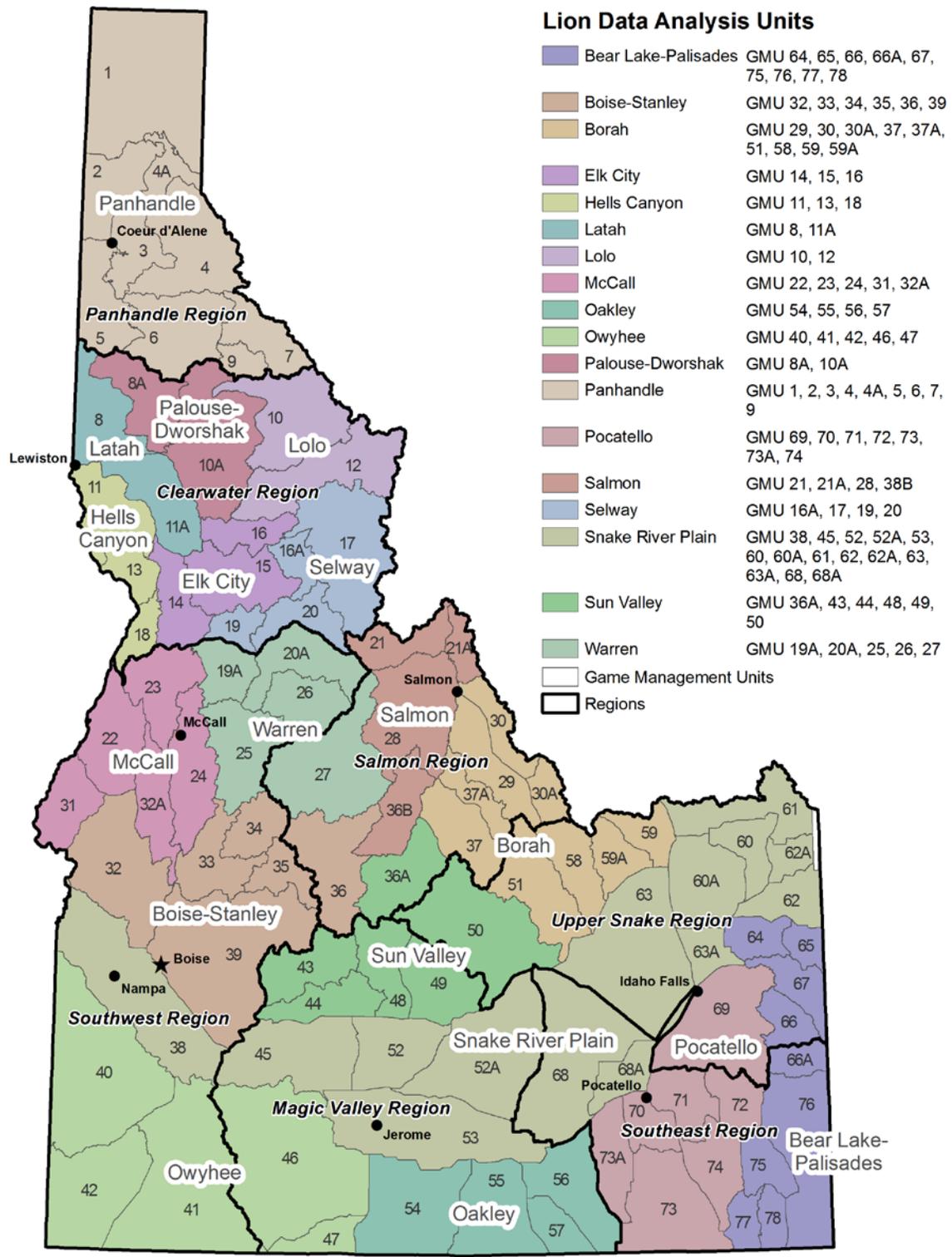


Figure 1 Statewide Mountain Lion Management Zones (DAUs).

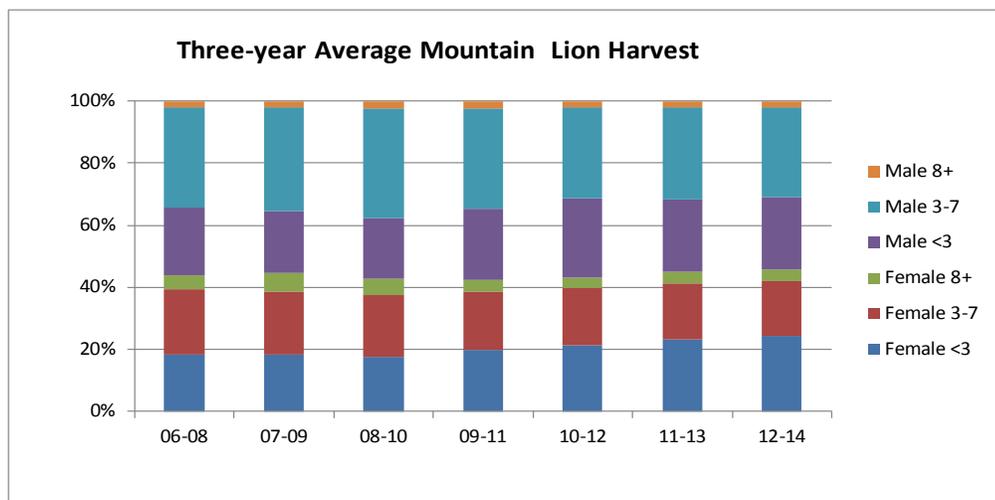
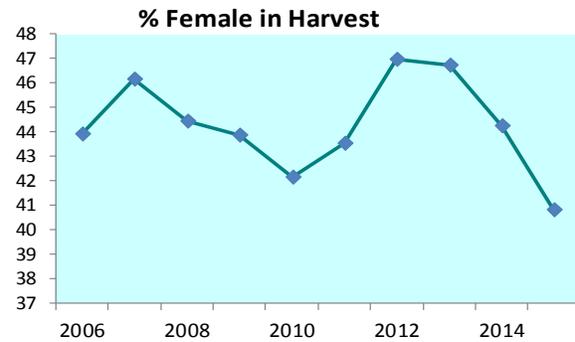
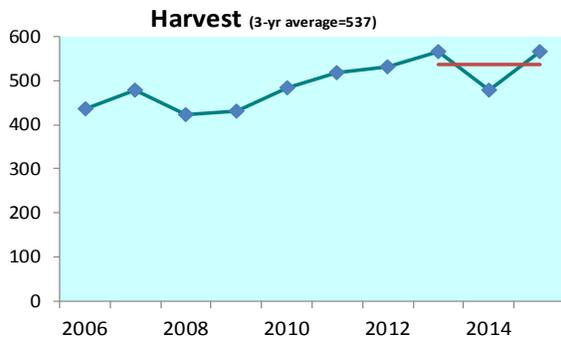


Statewide 78,834 Sq Mi

2015 Season (Fall 2015-Spring 2016)		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest		537
Harvest per 100 mi ²		0.7
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	57%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		435	479	423	431	484	519	530	565	479	566
Males	0-2 years	86	110	65	69	106	122	125	87	112	0
	3-7 years	137	119	139	144	148	131	126	168	107	0
	8+ years	9	8	6	10	11	10	7	13	8	0
	Unknown	12	21	25	19	15	30	23	33	40	335
	Subtotal	244	258	235	242	280	293	281	301	267	335
Females	0-2 years	81	75	68	78	70	112	111	113	112	0
	3-7 years	79	95	79	72	90	80	85	93	70	0
	8+ years	11	26	20	23	19	11	20	25	4	0
	Unknown	20	25	21	16	25	23	33	33	26	231
	Subtotal	191	221	188	189	204	226	249	264	212	231

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 2. Statewide Mountain Lion Status and Objectives

Type	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Resident lion tags	20,899	21,784	22,416	22,596	22,406	21,662	21,574	21,675	21,589	22,546	22,966	24,081	24,827
Nonresident lion tags	795	699	786	761	695	526	463	444	528	546	551	558	633
Total lion tags	21,694	22,483	23,202	23,357	23,101	22,188	22,037	22,119	22,117	23,092	23,517	24,639	25,460
Resident houndhunter permits	2,982	2,945	2,904	2,943	2,844	2,894	2,886	2,863	2,858	3,039	3,145	3,340	3,436
Nonresident houndhunter permits	135	129	138	119	121	108	98	100	97	104	96	97	114
Total houndhunter permits	3,117	3,074	3,042	3,062	2,965	3,002	2,984	2,963	2,955	3,143	3,241	3,437	3,550

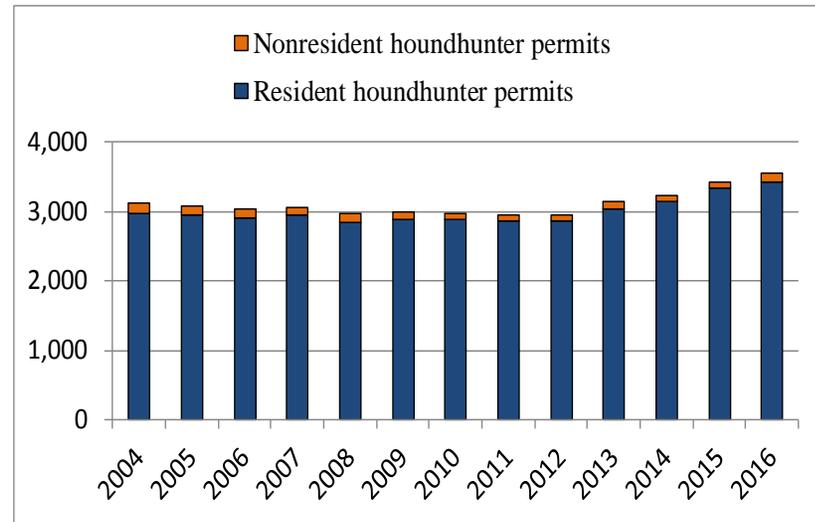
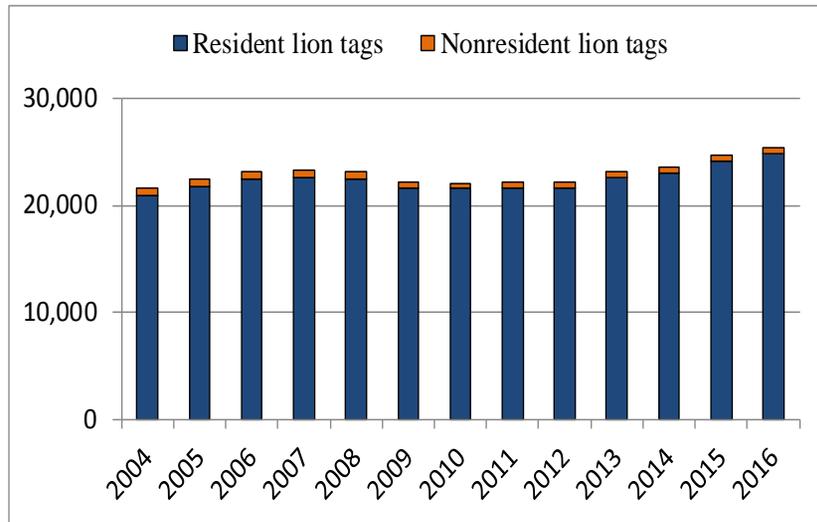


Figure 3. Mountain Lion Tag and Permit Status

PANHANDLE REGION

Abstract

The 2014 mountain lion general season resulted in a harvest of 135 mountain lions. The harvest in the 2015 season was 148; resulting in a 3-year average of 147, well above the management objective of providing a harvest of at least 61 lions annually. There were no recorded depredation kills in 2014 or 2015. Female mountain lion harvest made up 50% of the harvest in 2014 and 40% in 2015; the 3-year average of female harvest was 48%. After 6 years of increasing harvest, the 2014 season showed a reduction. Age data, available up to 2014, shows a decreasing percentage of 3-7 year old males; a similar pattern is shown in males 8 years and older.

Panhandle DAU (GMUs 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 9)

Lion hunting with the aid of hounds is not allowed during general big game seasons for deer and elk. Deer and elk seasons run almost continuously from 10 October through 1 December in most GMUs. However, there is no deer or elk general season in GMUs 4, 7, or 9 after 3 November. Game Management Unit 9 is rarely accessible due to deep ridge-top snow on the boundary of the GMU, thereby limiting access to the area.

Management Objectives

The 2002-2010 Mountain Lion Species Management Plan states that initial harvest goals will be based on maintaining harvest levels on a 3-year running average that are at or above the 3-year average harvest for the 1990-1992 big game seasons (Figure 4) for each DAU, except in areas where other factors or circumstances justify a higher or lower goal (e.g., harvest seasons are deliberately liberalized to reduce the lion population or where the deliberate reduction of a lion population or maintenance at a lower level makes it untenable to continue to reach the harvest levels attained between 1990-1992). The objective for the Panhandle DAU is to maintain a harvest of at least 61 animals. Specific objectives regarding sex and age composition of the harvest will be developed in the future.

The Department will continue to gather harvest data via the mandatory check. Regulations will allow the use of training dogs and continue to protect young mountain lions and females accompanied by young-of-the-year.

Historical Information

The management of mountain lions has changed dramatically during the past 30 years. Through 1971, it was classified as a predator with a continuous open season and no bag limit, and in many years, a bounty was paid for dead mountain lions. With reclassification as a game animal in 1972, more conservative management was initiated to increase the mountain lion population.

The 1972 season for Panhandle DAU was open only September-December, with 1 mountain lion allowed per year. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, seasons remained relatively short, with some GMUs virtually closed. GMU 4, for example, was open for only 7 days in 1970, from 26 November through 2 December. Seasons closed generally at the end of December or in mid-

January during most of the 1980s and early 1990s. Beginning in 1993, seasons were extended several times so that lion harvest in Panhandle DAU closed 31 March.

Prior to the 1995 season, this DAU was comprised of 3 separate areas made up of GMUs: 1-1 (GMUs 1, 2, 3, and 5), 1-2 (GMUs 4 and 4A), and 1-3 (GMUs 6, 7, and 9). Concurrent with the establishment of a single Panhandle DAU, seasons in some GMUs were extended to establish a single, DAU-wide season framework and to provide a larger annual sample size, although over a broader area.

Season Structure

Mountain lion seasons and statewide reporting are based on state fiscal years. In 2007 the season was shortened in response to apparent high harvest rates and a concern of low lion numbers by lion hunters. The opening date was delayed 2 weeks to 15 September, resulting in a 153-day season, closing 16 February in all GMUs. In 2012, the season in GMUs 6, 7, and 9 was lengthened, starting on Aug 30 and ending Mar 31. The seasons in GMUs 7 and 9 were further lengthened in 2013; the closing date is now June 30. Additionally, a second mountain lion may be harvested in GMUs 4, 4A, 6, 7 and 9. The use of hounds is not allowed during general deer and elk rifle seasons. No female quotas apply in the Panhandle DAU.

Harvest Characteristics

Harvest in both the 2014 and 2015 seasons was 135 and 148 mountain lions respectively. This is a reduction from the 2013 season of 157 lions. The highest harvest on record occurred during the 1997 harvest season when 210 mountain lions were killed.

The percentage of females in the harvest, generally considered an indicator of mortality rates, decreased steadily from the early 1980s through 1993. Since 2006 the percentage has varied, with a low of 38% in 2007 and a high of 52% in 2013 (Figure 4). The 3-year average is 47% females in the harvest. The 2014 season percent of females in the harvest was 50%; in 2015 it dropped to 40%. There is currently no established threshold for this metric.

Age structure from harvested mountain lions in the 2015 seasons was not available at the time of this report. The most recent 3-year average (2012-2014) of males 3 years or older was 46% in the harvest.

The percent of females over 3 years of age in the harvest has slowly increased since the 2006-2008 average.

Depredations

There were no reported depredation kills in 2014 or 2015 seasons.

Management Implications

The current mountain lion plan indicates populations will be managed to maintain a 3-year average harvest at or above the 1990-1992 average harvest except in areas where other factors or circumstances justify a different goal. The 3-year average for this DAU from 1990-1992 is 61 mountain lions. The latest 3-year average of 142 harvested lions is well above the minimum

criteria and has been at or near this level for the past 8 years. The percent of adult males in the harvest has decreased over the past 5 years and the percent adult females has increased during this same time period. While not of immediate concern, these harvest parameters warrant watching. The Department will have more information to work with as new mountain lion population estimation techniques become available.

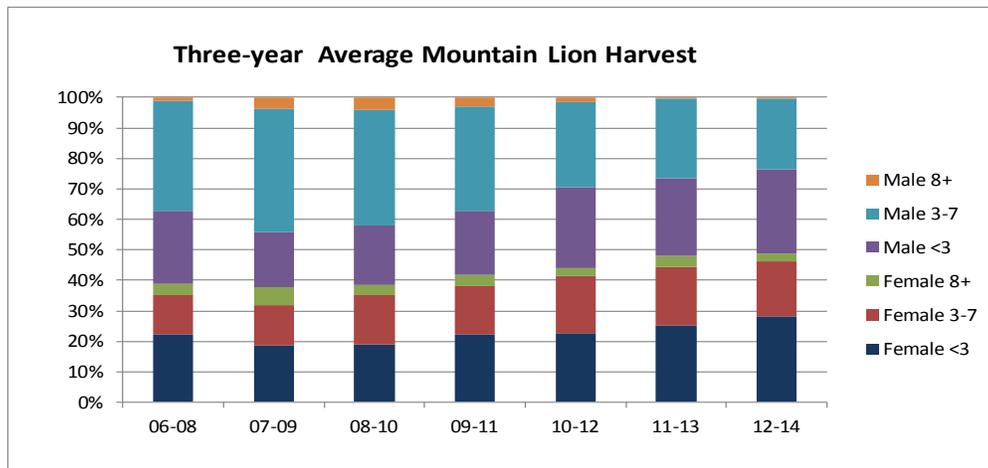
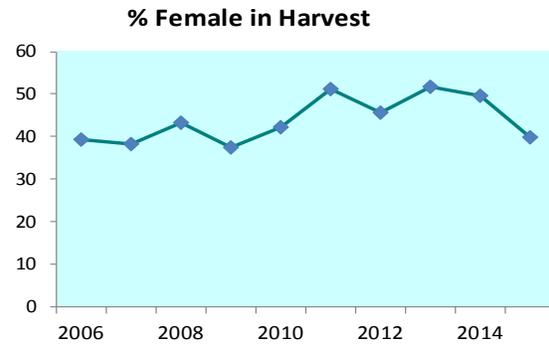
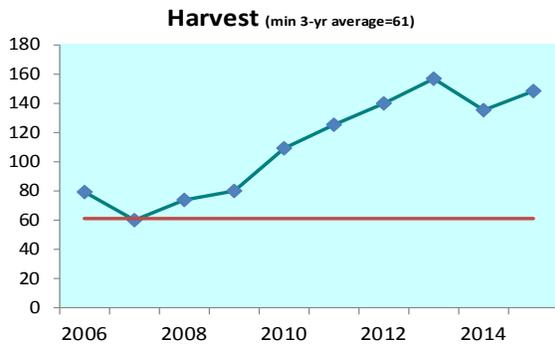


Panhandle DAU (GMUs 1, 2, 3, 4, 4A, 5, 6, 7, 9)
 7,779 Sq Miles

2015 Season (Fall 2015/Spring 2016)		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	61	147
Harvest per 100 mi ²	TBD	1.9
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	46%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		79	60	74	80	109	125	140	157	135	148
Males	0-2 years	19	16	10	9	27	24	36	31	31	0
	3-7 years	25	19	24	36	29	32	31	32	19	0
	8+ years	0	0	2	5	3	1	1	0	1	0
	Unknown	4	2	6	0	4	4	8	13	17	89
	Subtotal	48	37	42	50	63	61	76	76	68	89
Females	0-2 years	18	10	14	12	19	32	23	37	40	0
	3-7 years	7	7	10	9	19	18	25	26	14	0
	8+ years	1	3	3	5	0	5	4	5	0	0
	Unknown	5	3	5	4	8	9	12	13	13	59
	Subtotal	31	23	32	30	46	64	64	81	67	59

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 4 Panhandle DAU status and objectives

CLEARWATER REGION

Abstract

Mandatory harvest reports indicated a total harvest of 162 mountain lions (52.5% female) in 2014 and 142 mountain lions in 2015 (38.7% female) in the Clearwater Regions 6 DAU's (Latah, Palouse-Dworshak, Lolo, Hells Canyon, Elk City, and Selway). Harvest in 2014 and 2015 seasons are near the 2011-2013 average of 155 lions. Compared to the harvest objectives from the lion plan all DAU's are exceeding the harvest objective except for the Lolo and Selway DAU's. The Elk City DAU has seen an increase in harvest the last three years and has only met the goal on those years, the 2010-2012 average was 31 lions compared to 2013-2015 average of 45 lions. During the 2014 and 2015 seasons, the majority of mountain lions were harvested using hounds (62%), followed by incidental harvest (28%). Most mountain lions were harvested with a rifle (80%), followed by bow (9%), and handgun (7%).

Latah DAU (GMUs 8, 11A)

Management Objectives

The 2002-2010 Mountain Lion Management Plan directs the Department to maintain lions at or near their current distribution throughout the state. Harvest goals are based on trends from past harvest data, mountain lion population dynamics, harvest vulnerability, and the desired level and composition of harvest over a 3-year average. Initial harvest goals for a DAU will be designed to maintain harvest levels on a 3-year running average that are at or above the 3-year average harvest for the 1990-1992 mountain lion seasons.

Historical Information

Latah DAU GMUs are generally accessible to hunters during winter but support low numbers of mountain lions. Healthy white-tailed deer and elk populations, as well as some mule deer, provide a prey base. Habitats in this area are dominated by privately owned farmlands in upland prairies that are interspersed with coniferous forests leading to the Clearwater River and its tributaries. Canyon breaks leading to the Clearwater River provide quality habitat for many species of wildlife.

Season Structure

Mountain lion seasons and statewide reporting are based on state fiscal years. No change occurred to season structure for mountain lions in the Latah DAU for the 2014-2015 hunting seasons. There is no dog-training season for mountain lions and no female harvest quotas in this DAU.

Harvest Characteristics

Mountain lion harvest in Latah DAU GMUs has historically been light, although was higher in recent years (Figure 5), averaging 20 lions per season from 2013-2015. This level exceeds the 1990-1992 minimum harvest objectives of 3. A total of 20 and 19 were harvest 2014 and 2015 respectively. .

Harvest with hounds made up approximately half of the harvest and incidental harvest was approximately one third of the harvest for the 2014 and 2015 seasons.

The percentage of females in the harvest, generally considered an indicator of mortality rates, decreased steadily from the early 1980s through 1993. Since 2006 the percentage has varied, with a low of 38% in 2007 and a high of 52% in 2013 (Figure 4). The 3-year average is 47% females in the harvest. The 2014 season percent of females in the harvest was 50%; in 2015 it dropped to 40%. There is currently no established threshold for this metric.

Age structure from harvested mountain lions in the 2015 season was not available at the time of this report. The most recent 3-year average (2012-2014) of males 3 years or older was 51% in the harvest. This represents an increase in the percent of old males since the 2007-2009 3-year average of 46%.

The percent of females over 3 years of age in the harvest has slowly increased since the 2006-2008 average.

Depredations

Mountain lion depredations are usually very minor in Clearwater Region, although in 2014 there were 7 depredations. In 2015 there were 16 reported mountain lion depredations which is an increase over previous years. This may be due to a growing urban interface with mountain lion occupied range and an increase in white-tailed deer populations

Management Implications

Due to the increase in sightings and reports of encounters during the mid-1990s in this DAU, hunting seasons were liberalized. Harvest continued to increase and, during the 1997 and 1998 seasons, reached an all-time high for this DAU. It is likely that due to the dense white-tailed deer populations throughout much of this DAU, the mountain lion population expanded its range in response to the growth of this prey population. This would account for increased observations of mountain lions in this DAU during the mid-1990s. Despite the longer season, harvest has remained below the 1997 and 1998 record harvest.

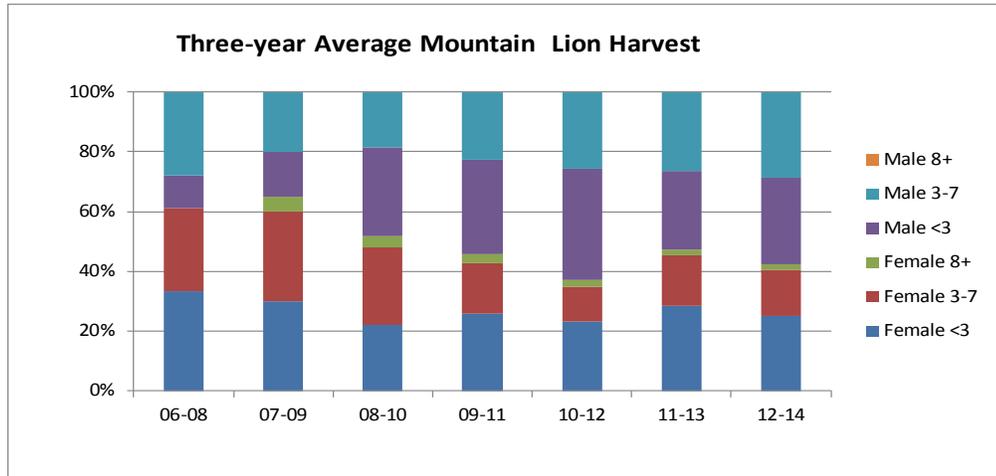
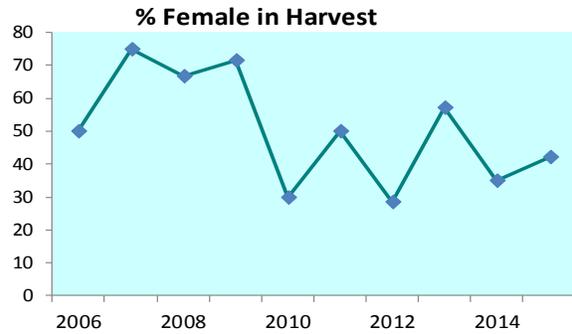
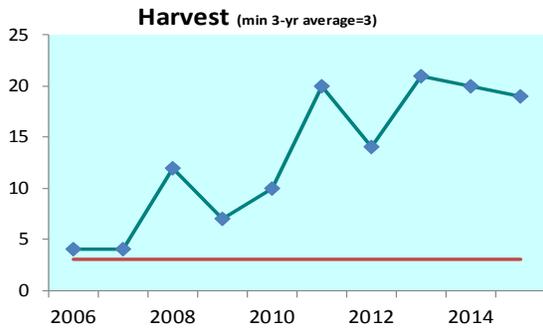


Latah DAU (GMUs 8, 11A)
1,608 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	3	20
Harvest per 100 mi ²		1.2
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	51%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		4	4	12	7	10	20	14	21	20	19
Males	0-2 years	0	0	2	1	5	5	6	3	6	0
	3-7 years	2	1	2	1	2	5	4	5	6	0
	8+ years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	11
	Subtotal	2	1	4	2	7	10	10	9	13	11
Females	0-2 years	1	2	3	1	2	6	2	7	4	0
	3-7 years	1	0	4	2	1	3	1	5	2	0
	8+ years	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	8
	Subtotal	2	3	8	5	3	10	4	12	7	8

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 5 Latah DAU status and objectives

Palouse-Dworshak DAU (GMUs 8A, 10A)

Management Objectives

The 2002-2010 Mountain Lion Management Plan directs the Department to maintain lions at or near their current distribution throughout the state. Harvest goals are based on trends from past harvest data, mountain lion population dynamics, harvest vulnerability, and the desired level and composition of harvest over a 3-year average. Initial harvest goals for a DAU will be designed to maintain harvest levels on a 3-year running average that are at or above the 3-year average harvest for the 1990-1992 mountain lion seasons.

Historical Information

Timberlands owned by Potlatch Corporation, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) comprise 75% of the Palouse-Dworshak DAU. Timber harvest activity has created vast acreages of early successional habitat benefiting several ungulate prey species. The remaining one-fourth of the DAU is open or agricultural lands providing high-quality forage for deer and elk at certain times of the year. The area is bisected by canyons leading to the Palouse and Potlatch rivers (GMU 8A), Clearwater River, and lower North Fork of Clearwater River (GMU 10A). Both GMUs share a common border along the lower end of Dworshak Reservoir. Access is very good throughout the DAU where high open and closed road densities contribute to good opportunities for hunting mountain lions.

Season Structure

No change occurred to season structure for mountain lions in the Palouse-Dworshak DAU for the 2013 hunting season. There is no dog-training season for mountain lions and no female harvest quotas in this DAU.

Harvest Characteristics

Mountain lion harvest in the Palouse-Dworshak DAU averaged 40 lions for the 2013-2015 seasons; 36 and 41 lions were harvested during the 2014 and 2015 seasons (Figure 6). This is above the 1990-1992 minimum harvest objective of 21. Harvest has been highly variable, potentially due to varied hunting opportunity (i.e., weather conditions) between years.

Harvest with the use of hounds accounted for 70% and 53% of the total harvest, respectfully, for the 2014-2015 seasons. Incidental harvest made up 42% of the harvest in 2014 and 24% of the harvest in 2015. Age data was not available for the 2015 season the time of this report.

The percentage of females in the harvest, generally considered an indicator of mortality rates, has varied, with a low of 34% in 2009 and a high of 61% in 2012 (Figure 6). The 3-year average is 45% females in the harvest. The 2014 season percent of females in the harvest was 42%; in 2015 it was 46%. There is currently no established threshold for this metric.

Age structure from harvested mountain lions in the 2015 seasons was not available at the time of this report. The most recent 3-year average (2012-2014) of males 3 years or older was 51% in the harvest.

The percent of females over 3 years of age in the harvest has slowly increased since the 2006-2008 average.

Depredations

Mountain lion depredations are usually very minor in Clearwater Region, although in 2014 there were 7 depredations. In 2015 there were 16 reported mountain lion depredations which is an increase over previous years. This may be due to a growing urban interface with mountain lion occupied range and an increase in white-tailed deer populations

Management Implications

Due to the increase in sightings and reports of encounters during the mid-1990s in this DAU, hunting seasons were liberalized. Harvest continued to increase and, during the 1997 season, harvest reached an all-time high. It is likely that, due to the dense white-tailed deer populations throughout much of this DAU, the mountain lion population expanded its range into lower elevations and took advantage of the abundant whitetail population. This could potentially account for increased observations of mountain lions in lower-elevation whitetail habitat in this DAU during the mid-1990s. Despite a longer season, harvest has remained below the 1997 peak and currently has stabilized at about half that level.

Harvest increased dramatically from 1991-1997 in GMU 10A, where the highest annual harvest in the Clearwater Region has occurred every year since 1994. Although lion harvest has declined from a peak in 1997, the GMU retains a relatively high harvest level. It is unclear whether the current status is a result of a population change or variable hunting conditions. However, hunters are indicating that lion observations are becoming less frequent.

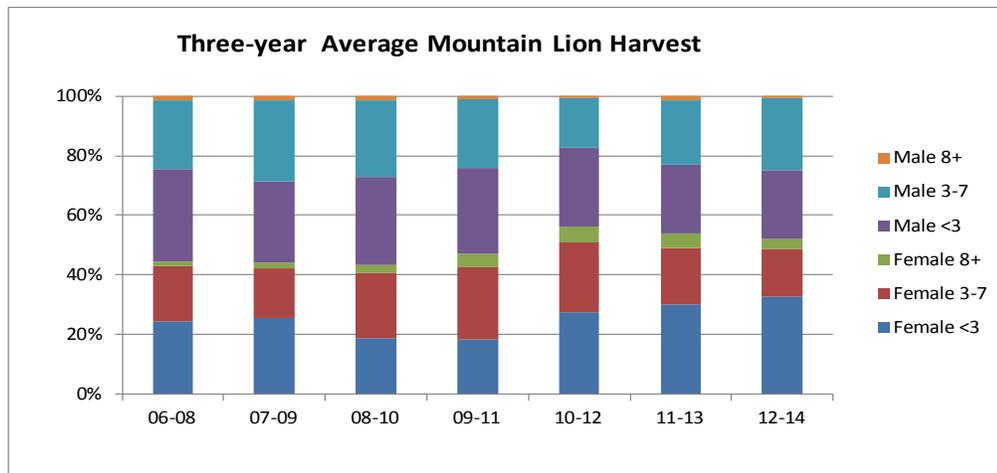
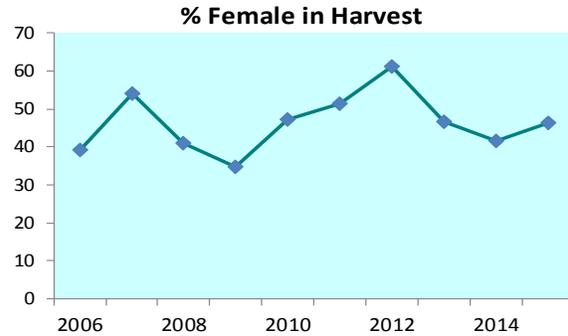
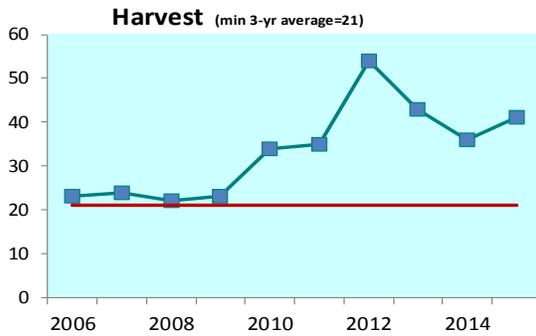


Palouse-Dworshak DAU (GMUs 8A, 10A)
2,310 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	21	40
Harvest per 100 mi ²		1.8
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	51%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		23	24	22	23	34	35	54	43	36	41
Males	0-2 years	8	6	6	6	10	9	12	8	9	0
	3-7 years	6	4	5	9	5	6	8	13	9	0
	8+ years	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
	Unknown	0	1	1	0	3	1	1	1	3	22
	Subtotal	14	11	13	15	18	17	21	23	21	22
Females	0-2 years	4	8	4	5	5	6	21	11	9	0
	3-7 years	3	5	4	2	10	9	8	7	5	0
	8+ years	1	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	0	0
	Unknown	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	19
	Subtotal	9	13	9	8	16	18	33	20	15	19

Note: Lions in harvest year have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 6. Palouse-Dworshak DAU status and objectives

Lolo DAU (GMUs 10, 12)

Management Objectives

The 2002-2010 Mountain Lion Management Plan directs the Department to maintain lions at or near their current distribution throughout the state. Harvest goals are based on trends from past harvest data, mountain lion population dynamics, harvest vulnerability, and the desired level and composition of harvest over a 3-year average. Initial harvest goals for a DAU will be designed to maintain harvest levels on a 3-year running average that are at or above the 3-year average harvest for the 1990-1992 mountain lion seasons.

Historical Information

Lion hunter access to Lolo DAU is extremely limited during winter months, except along State Highway 12 from Lowell to Lolo Pass and by snowmobile along the North Fork of the Clearwater River. Much of these 2 GMUs are difficult to access because of snow, mud, and steep, rugged terrain. Deer and elk populations throughout most of the DAU provide a considerable prey base; however, elk numbers have declined substantially over the past 10-15 years. Habitat includes dense coniferous forest and mountains with relatively high precipitation. Land ownership is almost entirely public (USFS).

Season Structure

Within Lolo DAU, the take season began at the end of August and extended through 30 June (Appendix A). The 2-lion bag limit in GMUs 10 and 12 and the use of electronic calls for hunting lions in GMU 12 were discontinued with the 2006 season, but reinstated in 2010. This DAU did not have a dog-training season, and there were no female harvest quotas.

Harvest Characteristics

The remote nature and difficult access in this DAU result in a moderate harvest level (Figure 7). An average harvest of 13 lions occurred for the 2013-2015 seasons. During the 2014 season hunters harvested only 8 lions but in 2015 a total of 16 were harvested. Lolo DAU hunters harvest has been below the 1990-1992 minimum harvest objective of 20. Availability of mountain lions appears to be declining, potentially a result of the effects of substantial decreases in elk numbers over the past few years and to a lesser extent additional lion hunting pressure from reduced nonresident tag costs and the 2-lion bag limit.

Harvest with the use of hounds and still/stalk harvest accounted for 50% and 81% of the total harvest, respectively, during the 2014 and 2015 seasons.

The percentage of females in the harvest, generally considered an indicator of mortality rates, has varied, with a low of 25% and a high of 54% (Figure 7). The 3-year average is 40% females in the harvest. The 2014 season percent of females in the harvest was 50%; in 2015 it was 25%. There is currently no established threshold for this metric.

Age structure from harvested mountain lions in the 2015 seasons was not available at the time of this report. The most recent 3-year average (2012-2014) of males 3 years or older was 67% in the harvest.

The percent of females over 3 years of age in the harvest has slowly increased since the 2006-2008 average.

Depredations

Mountain lion depredations are usually very minor in Clearwater Region, although in 2014 there were 7 depredations. In 2015 there were 16 reported mountain lion depredations which is an increase over previous years. This may be due to a growing urban interface with mountain lion occupied range and an increase in white-tailed deer populations

Management Implications

Mountain lion harvest in Lolo DAU has averaged 13 lions harvested per year in recent years, but spiked in 2010 and 2011 to above 22 lions. Since 2011 harvest has decreased, with the 2013-2015 average (13 lions) moving closer to the 10-year average. These recent trends in lion harvest may be an indication that efforts to increase harvest through liberal season regulations has been moderately affective and that lion numbers have potentially adjusted to decreased prey availability. Observational information suggests lion hunters are less willing than in the past to turn hounds loose in areas with high wolf densities, which may account for reduced harvest in 2014 and 2015.

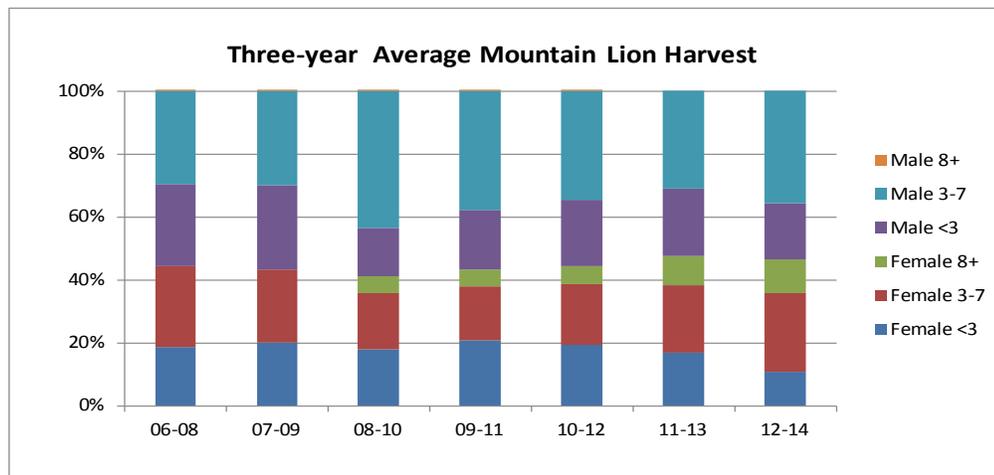
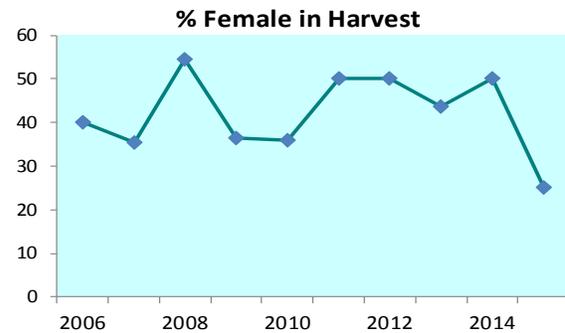
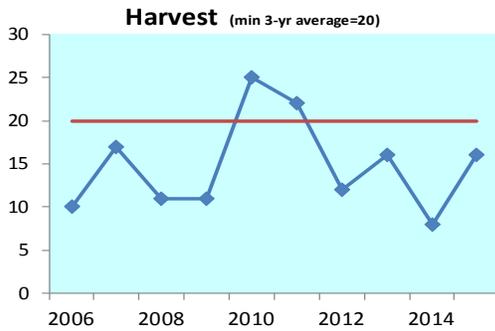


Lolo DAU (GMUs 10, 12)
2,396 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	20	13
Harvest per 100 mi ²		1
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	67%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		10	17	11	11	25	22	12	16	8	16
Males	0-2 years	1	6	0	2	4	4	3	2	0	0
	3-7 years	4	3	1	5	11	4	3	6	1	0
	8+ years	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	1	0	4	0	0	3	0	1	3	12
	Subtotal	6	11	5	7	16	11	6	9	4	12
Females	0-2 years	1	2	2	2	3	6	1	0	2	0
	3-7 years	2	3	2	2	3	4	3	2	2	0
	8+ years	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	0	0
	Unknown	1	1	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	4
	Subtotal	4	6	6	4	9	11	6	7	4	4

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 7. Lolo DAU status and objectives

Hells Canyon DAU (GMUs 11, 13, 18)

Management Objectives

The 2002-2010 Mountain Lion Management Plan directs the Department to maintain lions at or near their current distribution throughout the state. Harvest goals are based on trends from past harvest data, mountain lion population dynamics, harvest vulnerability, and the desired level and composition of harvest over a 3-year average. Initial harvest goals for a DAU will be designed to maintain harvest levels on a 3-year running average that are at or above the 3-year average harvest for the 1990-1992 mountain lion seasons.

Historical Information

Wildlife habitat in Hells Canyon GMUs varies greatly across the DAU. Steep, dry, river-canyon grasslands give way to higher-elevation forests with greater precipitation. Road density is moderate, and access is restricted in many areas. This DAU contains large tracts of both privately and publicly owned land. GMU 11 is mostly private land except for the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area (83,000 acres). GMU 13 is primarily under private ownership and is managed mostly for agriculture and livestock production. GMU 18 is two-thirds public land, mostly in the Hells Canyon Wilderness and National Recreation Area. All 3 GMUs have borders along the Snake and Salmon rivers. Healthy mule deer and elk populations, as well as some white-tailed deer, provide a prey base for mountain lions.

Season Structure

No change occurred to season structure for mountain lions in the Hells Canyon DAU for the 2013 hunting season. There was no dog-training season for mountain lions nor were there any female harvest quotas for this DAU.

Harvest Characteristics

Mountain lion harvest in Hells Canyon DAU has historically been moderate. During the 2013-2015 seasons, harvest averaged 25 lions per season (Figure 8), with 26 and 22 lions being harvested in 2014 and 2015 respectively. This level surpassed the 1990-1992 minimum harvest objective of 15 per year.

Harvest with the use of hounds and incidental harvest accounted for 68% and 27% of the total harvest, during the 2014 and-2015 seasons.

The percentage of females in the harvest, generally considered an indicator of mortality rates, has varied, with a low of 23% and a high of 61% (Figure 8). The 3-year average is 43% females in the harvest. The 2014 season percent of females in the harvest was 23%; in 2015 it was 46%. There is currently no established threshold for this metric.

Age structure from harvested mountain lions in the 2015 seasons was not available at the time of this report. The most recent 3-year average (2012-2014) of males 3 years or older was 73% in the harvest.

The percent of females over 3 years of age in the harvest has slowly increased since the 2006-2008 average.

Depredations

Mountain lion depredations are usually very minor in Clearwater Region, although in 2014 there were 7 depredations. In 2015 there were 16 reported mountain lion depredations which is an increase over previous years. This may be due to a growing urban interface with mountain lion occupied range and an increase in white-tailed deer populations.

Management Implications

Little change in lion harvest has occurred in this DAU since 1998. Harvest has remained low except when favorable weather conditions have provided increased lion harvest opportunities. Wolf presence is minimal, especially in the northern portion of this DAU, which may draw hound hunters to this area, and could increase harvest in the future.



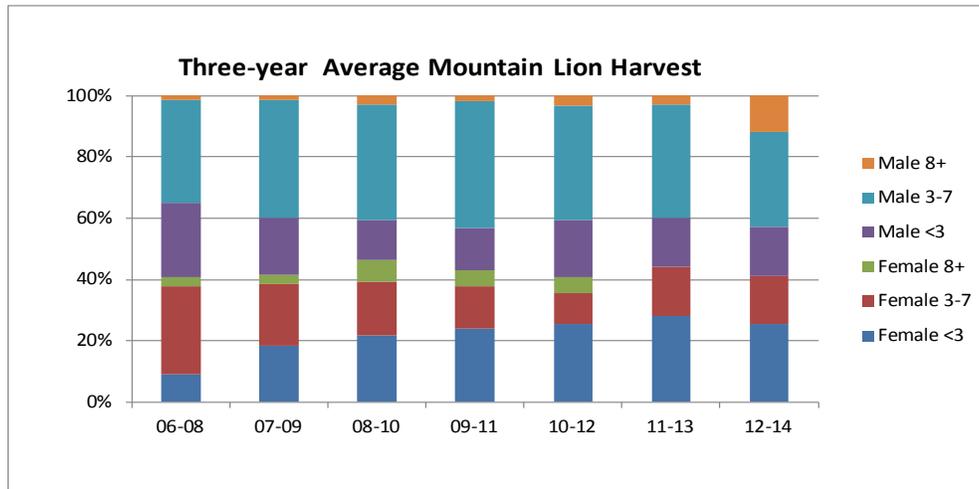
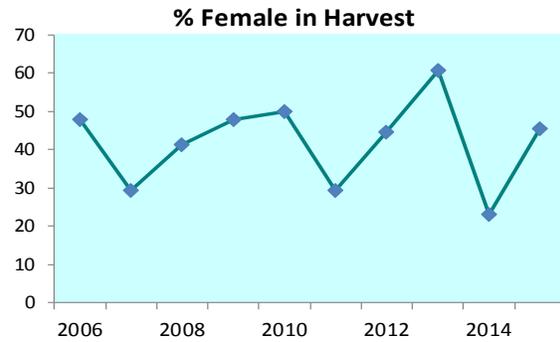
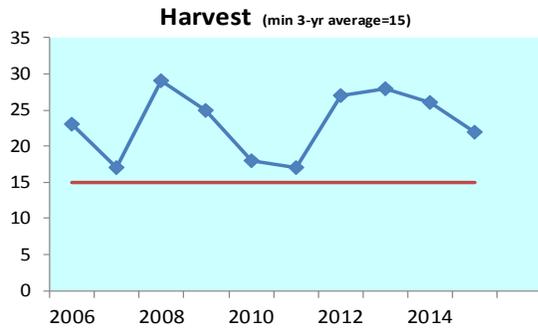
Hells Canyon DAU (GMUs 11, 13, 18)

1,396 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	15	25
Harvest per 100 mi ²		1.6
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	73%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		23	17	29	25	18	17	27	28	26	22
Males	0-2 years	6	6	4	3	2	3	6	2	4	0
	3-7 years	5	6	11	10	5	9	8	8	7	0
	8+ years	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	7	0
	Unknown	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	12
	Subtotal	12	12	17	13	9	12	15	11	20	12
Females	0-2 years	1	1	4	8	3	3	9	7	3	0
	3-7 years	9	4	6	4	2	2	2	7	3	0
	8+ years	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	10
	Subtotal	11	5	12	12	9	5	12	17	6	10

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 8 Hells Canyon DAU status and objectives

Elk City DAU (GMUs 14, 15, 16)

Management Objectives

The 2002-2010 Mountain Lion Management Plan directs the Department to maintain lions at or near their current distribution throughout the state. Harvest goals are based on trends from past harvest data, mountain lion population dynamics, harvest vulnerability, and the desired level and composition of harvest over a 3-year average. Initial harvest goals for a DAU will be designed to maintain harvest levels on a 3-year running average that are at or above the 3-year average harvest for the 1990-1992 mountain lion seasons.

Historical Information

Land ownership in Elk City DAU is 80% public and 20% private. Privately owned portions are at lower elevations along Clearwater and Salmon rivers. Approximately 8% of the DAU falls within Gospel Hump Wilderness. Most of the area is characterized by productive coniferous forests with intermixed grasslands. Logging and mining efforts have resulted in high open and closed road densities contributing to significant big game vulnerability during hunting season. Deer and elk populations throughout most of the DAU are thriving, providing a substantial prey base.

Season Structure

No change occurred to season structure for mountain lions in the Elk City DAU for the 2013 hunting season. This DAU did not have a dog-training season, and there were no female harvest quotas. The northern portion of GMU 15 was closed to mountain lion harvest from 1999 through the 2003 season for research purposes. Additional hunting opportunity has been offered with a 2-lion bag limit in that portion of GMU 16 north of the Selway River from 2000 through the 2013 season.

Harvest Characteristics

Hunter access can be difficult in some portions of this DAU. During the 2014 and 2015 seasons, Elk City DAU hunters harvested 43 and 47 mountain lions respectively. It has only been the last 3 years which harvest has been above the 1990-1992 minimum harvest objective of 40 lions (Figure 9). Lion harvest peaked in 1996 and has decreased since that time, although recent harvest has increased. . Some of the initial decline may be attributed to the lion harvest closure in the northern portion of GMU 15 from 1999 through the 2003 season.

Harvest with the use of hounds and incidental harvest accounted for approximately two thirds (66%) and one-third of the total harvest, respectively, during the 2013-2015 seasons.

The percentage of females in the harvest, generally considered an indicator of mortality rates, has remained fairly steady (Figure 9). The 3-year average is 56% females in the harvest. The 2014 season percent of females in the harvest was 54%; in 2015 it was 60%. There is currently no established threshold for this metric.

Age structure from harvested mountain lions in the 2015 seasons was not available at the time of this report. The most recent 3-year average (2012-2014) of males 3 years or older was 59% in the harvest.

The percent of females over 3 years of age in the harvest has slowly increased since the 2006-2008 average.

Depredations

Mountain lion depredations are usually very minor in Clearwater Region, although in 2014 there were 7 depredations. In 2015 there were 16 reported mountain lion depredations which is an increase over previous years. This may be due to a growing urban interface with mountain lion occupied range and an increase in white-tailed deer populations.

Management Implications

A decline in total mountain lion harvest in Elk City DAU was to be expected after the northern portion of GMU 15 was closed from 1999-2003. However, an additional drop in the Elk City DAU harvest occurred in 2003. This may have been related to unfavorable weather conditions or the desire by hunters to pursue lions in areas known for greater lion densities. Also, lion hunters may have re-located hunting efforts to areas with lower wolf densities to avoid potential conflict with hounds. Harvest has remained relatively constant since 2001 and recently spiked to 46 lions in the 2013-2015, above the 3-year harvest goal of 40 lions.

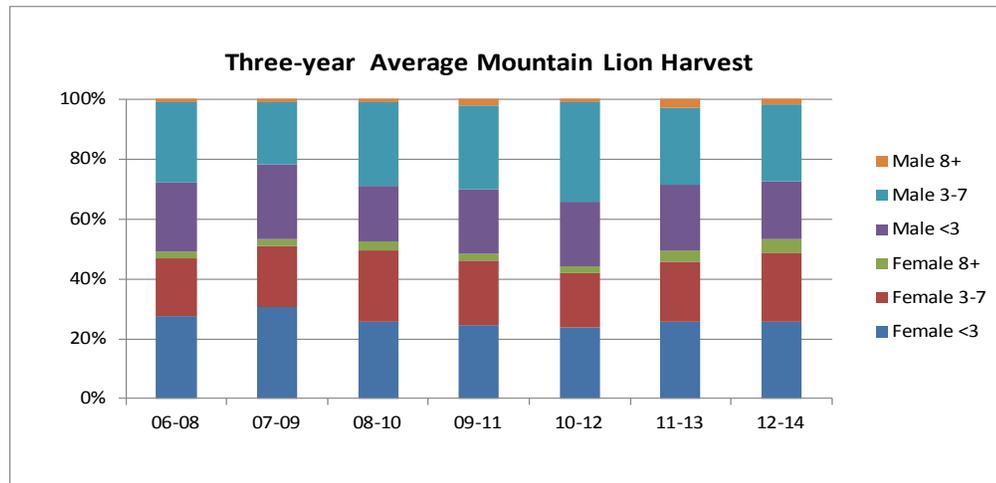
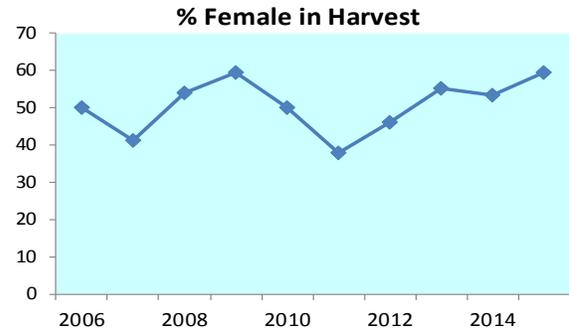
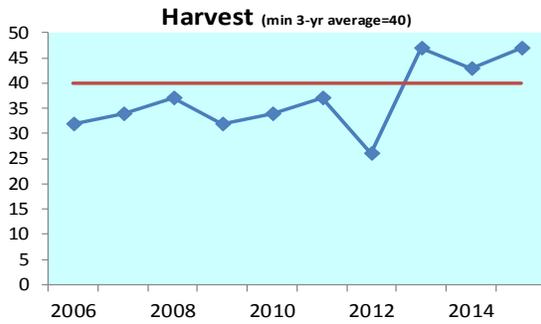


Elk City DAU (GMUs 14, 15, 16) 1,857 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	40	46
Harvest per 100 mi ²		2.5
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	59%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		32	34	37	32	34	37	26	47	43	47
Males	0-2 years	5	10	7	6	4	10	5	7	8	0
	3-7 years	10	6	9	4	13	9	7	10	10	0
	8+ years	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0
	Unknown	0	4	1	2	0	3	2	2	2	19
	Subtotal	16	20	17	13	17	23	14	21	20	19
Females	0-2 years	6	10	10	8	6	9	6	11	10	0
	3-7 years	7	4	7	8	7	5	4	11	9	0
	8+ years	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	1	0
	Unknown	2	0	2	2	3	0	1	1	3	28
	Subtotal	16	14	20	19	17	14	12	26	23	28

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 9. Elk City DAU status and objectives

Selway DAU (GMUs 16A, 17, 19, 20)

Management Objectives

The 2002-2010 Mountain Lion Management Plan directs the Department to maintain lions at or near their current distribution throughout the state. Harvest goals are based on trends from past harvest data, mountain lion population dynamics, harvest vulnerability, and the desired level and composition of harvest over a 3-year average. Initial harvest goals for a DAU will be designed to maintain harvest levels on a 3-year running average that are at or above the 3-year average harvest for the 1990-1992 mountain lion seasons.

Historical Information

GMUs within Selway DAU are, in part, comprised of Selway-Bitterroot, Frank Church River-of-No-Return, and Gospel Hump Wilderness areas and large roadless areas that afford limited access for hunters during mountain lion season. Habitat within this DAU include dense, coniferous forests within rugged mountainous terrain, as well as Ponderosa-pine savanna habitat with open understory, and steep open bunchgrass hillsides and brush fields along the Selway and Salmon River breaks. Although some white-tailed deer habitat occurs in these GMUs, the predominant ungulates are elk and mule deer.

Season Structure

Within Selway DAU, the mountain lion take season extended from 30 August-30 June (Appendix A). A bag limit of 2 lions has been allowed since 2000. This DAU does not have a dog-training season, and there were no female harvest quotas.

Harvest Characteristics

Mountain lion harvest in Selway DAU was higher in 2000 and 2001 (39 and 33, respectively) than during most years in the recent past. This was likely a result of the increased bag limit and season length, increased nonresident hound permits, outfitter efforts, and low snow pack (Figure 10). However, harvest declined substantially in 2002 and has remained low since then. During the 2014 and 2015 seasons, Selway DAU hunters harvested 5 and 7 mountain lions respectively. The 3-year average of 8 lions was below the 1990-1992 minimum harvest objective of 16. Because these are such large GMUs with ample prey base, the mountain lion population is likely much greater than harvest indicates. This suggests an under-harvested but evidently self-regulating population. The major obstacle to harvest in this DAU is difficult hunter access.

Harvest with the use of hounds accounted for 100% of the total harvest in 2014 and in 2015 made up 86% of the harvest.

The percentage of females in the harvest, generally considered an indicator of mortality rates, has varied, with a low of 38% and a high of 80% (Figure 9). The 3-year average is 64% females in the harvest. The 2014 season percent of females in the harvest was 80%; in 2015 it was 57%. There is currently no established threshold for this metric.

Age structure from harvested mountain lions in the 2015 seasons was not available at the time of this report. The most recent 3-year average (2012-2014) of males 3 years or older was 69% in the harvest.

The percent of females over 3 years of age in the harvest has slowly increased since the 2006-2008 average.

Depredations

Mountain lion depredations are usually very minor in Clearwater Region, although in 2014 there were 7 depredations. In 2015 there were 16 reported mountain lion depredations which is an increase over previous years. This may be due to a growing urban interface with mountain lion occupied range and an increase in white-tailed deer populations.

Management Implications

Selway DAU occupies a vast, remote area with high-quality big game range. Consequently, effects of hunting on mountain lion populations in the DAU are generally considered to be light except in those few areas with good road access or in areas where outfitters concentrate their hunting efforts.

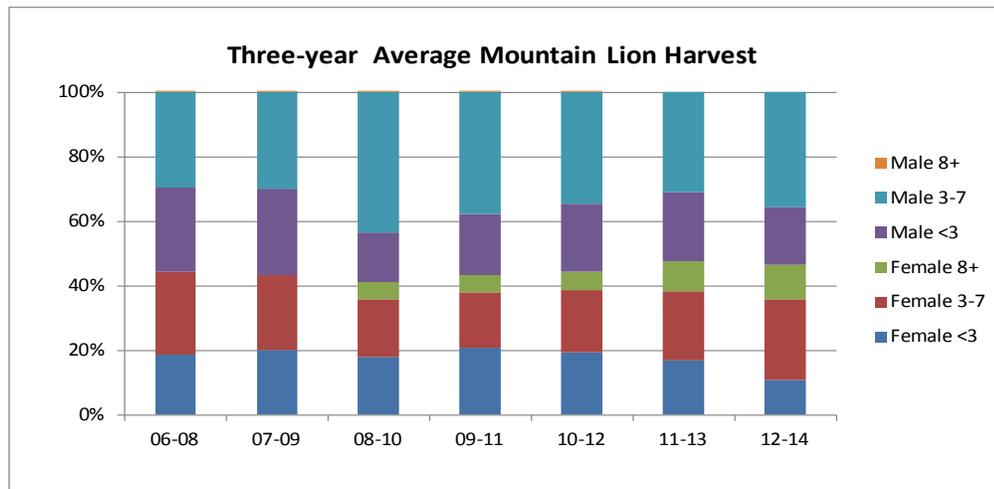
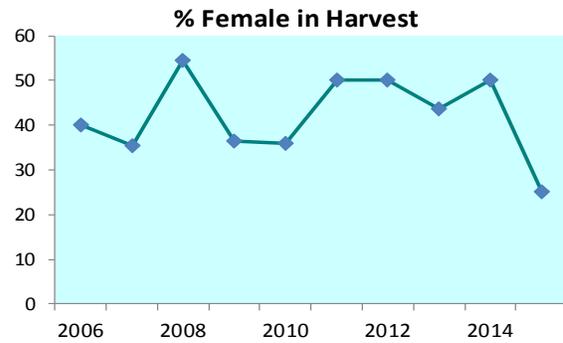
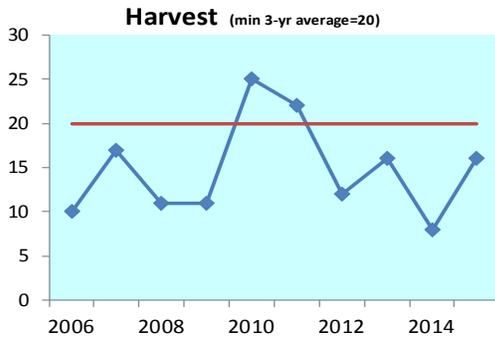


Lolo DAU (GMUs 10, 12)
2,396 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	20	13
Harvest per 100 mi ²		1
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	67%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		10	17	11	11	25	22	12	16	8	16
Males	0-2 years	1	6	0	2	4	4	3	2	0	0
	3-7 years	4	3	1	5	11	4	3	6	1	0
	8+ years	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	1	0	4	0	0	3	0	1	3	12
	Subtotal	6	11	5	7	16	11	6	9	4	12
Females	0-2 years	1	2	2	2	3	6	1	0	2	0
	3-7 years	2	3	2	2	3	4	3	2	2	0
	8+ years	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	0	0
	Unknown	1	1	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	4
	Subtotal	4	6	6	4	9	11	6	7	4	4

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 10. Selway DAU status and objectives

SOUTHWEST REGION

Abstract

Seventy-three mountain lions were harvested in 4 DAUs in the Southwest Region (Warren, McCall, Boise-Stanley, Owyhee) during the 2014 season. The 2014 harvest was 23% lower than previous 3-year average. One hundred and one mountain lions were harvested in the same DAUs in the 2015 season, 25% higher than the previous 3 year-average.

During the 2014 and 2015 season, the majority of mountain lions were harvested using hounds (75% and 74%, respectively).

Twelve GMUs in the Southwest Region have a female harvest quota; once the quota is reached in these GMUs, harvest closes to further female take but remains open to male harvest for the duration of the season. The female harvest quota was met in GMU 31 in the Southwest Region during the 2014 season. No female quotas were met in the 2015 season.

Warren DAU (GMUs 19A, 20A, 25, 26, 27)

Management Objectives

Harvest objectives for the Warren DAU are designed to maintain 3-year average harvest levels at or above the 1990-1992 average harvest of 15 mountain lions.

Historical Information

Warren DAU is characterized by limited access and rugged topography. Most of the DAU occurs within the Frank Church River-of-No-Return Wilderness. Research data from the early 1970's (Seidensticker et al. 1973) indicate mountain lion populations in this area are self-regulating, contributing emigrating animals to surrounding GMUs. The current structure of long seasons and 2-lion bag limits in GMUs 20A, 26, and 27 were implemented in response to sportsmen's concerns about declining ungulate recruitment.

Season Structure

Season changes include the extension of the take season in GMU 27 by two months (to 30 June) in the 2015 season. A female harvest quota is currently in place in GMU 25 to guard against over-harvest of the reproductive portion of the population, but harvest of males-only is permitted through the end of the season after the female harvest quota has been met. The use of dogs is prohibited during open firearm seasons for deer and elk in all GMUs in this DAU (Appendix A).

Harvest Characteristics

Five mountain lions (all males) were harvested in Warren DAU during the 2014 season, and 13 mountain lions (8 males, 5 females) were harvested during the 2015 season (Figure 11). The female quota in GMU 25 was not met in the 2014 or 2015 seasons. The 2014 harvest was 50% less than the previous 3 year average harvest (2011-2013; 10). The 2015 harvest was 49% above the previous 3 year average harvest (2012-2014; 8.7). The 2013-2015 average harvest of 8.3 is

45% below the minimum objective average harvest of 15. The harvest trend remains below objective.

Age data for the 2015 harvest seasons are not yet available. Three-year average age data from the most current analyzed years (2012-2014) indicated that 67% of harvested males were in the ≥ 3 -year-old age class. The proportion of females in the harvest has varied dramatically in the last five years, averaging 32% over the past three years (Figure 11). Three-year average (2013-2015) adult female harvest was 32% of the total lion harvest.

During the 2014 and 2015 seasons, the majority of mountain lions harvested in the Warren DAU were taken with assistance of hounds (80% and 85%, respectively).

Depredations

No mountain lion depredations were reported in the Warren DAU in 2014 or 2015.

Management Implications

Three-year average harvest levels in the Warren DAU continue to be below objectives. The remote nature of this DAU makes it unlikely that sport harvest can regulate lion population numbers. Prey populations and competition with wolves will likely have the greatest effect on lion populations in this area. The downward trend in lion harvest is unexplained.

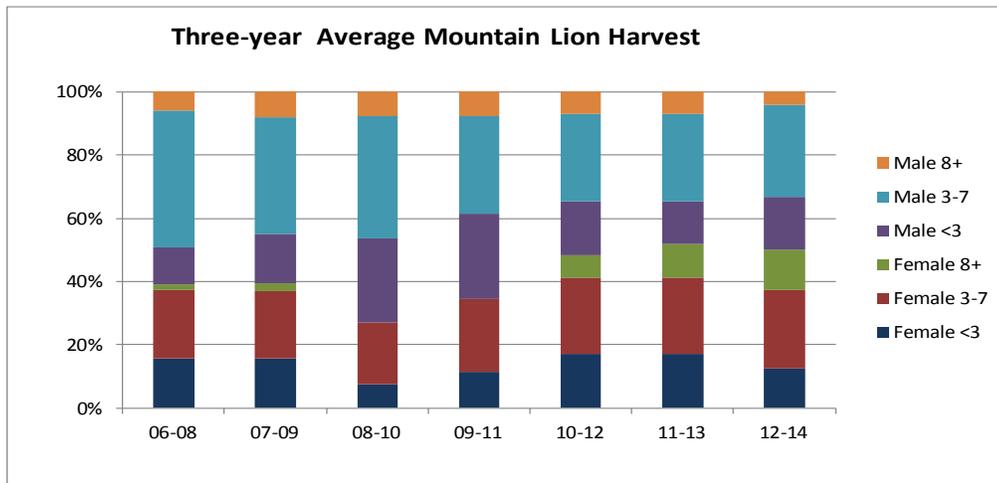
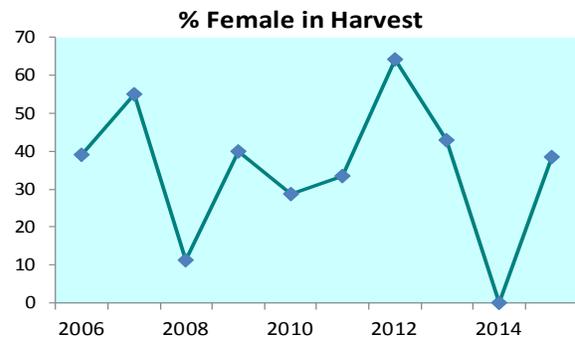
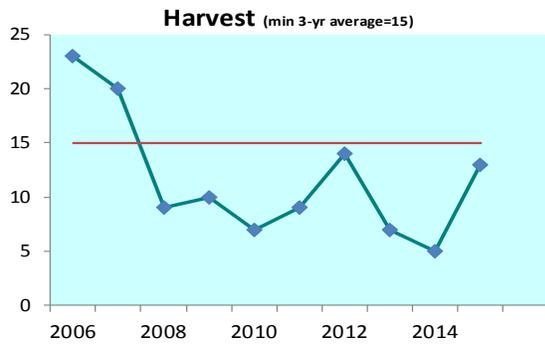


Warren DAU (GMUs 19A, 20A, 25, 26, 27) 4,289 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	15	8
Harvest per 100 mi ²		0.3
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	67%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		23	20	9	10	7	9	14	7	5	13
Males	0-2 years	3	1	2	3	2	2	1	1	2	0
	3-7 years	10	7	5	2	3	3	2	3	2	0
	8+ years	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	8
	Subtotal	14	9	8	6	5	6	5	4	5	8
Females	0-2 years	2	5	1	0	1	2	2	1	0	0
	3-7 years	7	4	0	4	1	1	5	1	0	0
	8+ years	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
	Unknown	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
	Subtotal	9	11	1	4	2	3	9	3	0	5

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 11. Warren DAU status and objectives

McCall DAU (GMUs 22, 23 24, 31, 32A)

Management Objectives

Harvest objectives for the McCall DAU are designed to maintain 3-year average harvest levels at or above the 1990-1992 average harvest of 20 mountain lions.

Historical Information

Approximately two-thirds of the McCall DAU is in public ownership, with most land managed by the USFS. Open, scattered shrub communities at lower elevations and mixed-conifer forests at mid to upper elevations characterize the habitat. The wide valley bottoms of the upper Little Salmon River, Weiser River, and North Fork Payette River are dominated by agri-business and housing developments. Moderate to high road densities exist in most of this DAU, with lower road densities on the eastern side of the DAU.

Lions were considered rare in these GMUs in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Like lion populations in other parts of the state, those in McCall DAU began increasing dramatically in the early 1990s. Subsequently, lion sightings, depredation occurrences, and sportsmen concerns for impacts on ungulates increased. Conservative seasons adopted in the 1980s were modified to the more liberal seasons currently in place (Appendix A).

Season Structure

No changes occurred to season structure for mountain lions in the McCall DAU for the 2014 or 2015 seasons. Female harvest quotas are currently in place in all GMUs of this DAU to guard against over-harvest of the reproductive portion of the population, but harvest of males-only is permitted through the end of the season after the female harvest quota has been met. The use of dogs is prohibited during open firearm seasons for deer and elk in all GMUs in this DAU (Appendix A).

Harvest Characteristics

Twenty-two mountain lions (7 males, 15 females) were harvested in the McCall DAU during the 2014 season, and 28 mountain lions (17 males, 11 females) were harvested during the 2015 season (Figure 11). The female quota in GMU 31 was the only quota met during the 2014 season. No female quotas were met in the 2015 season. The 2014 harvest was 14% less than the previous 3 year average harvest (2011-2013; 25.7). The 2015 harvest was 13% above the previous 3 year average harvest (2012-2014; 24.7). The 2013-2015 average harvest of 26.3 is 32% above the minimum harvest objective of 20 for this DAU. The harvest trend has been above objective for the past 5 years.

Age data for the 2015 harvest season are not yet available. Three-year average age data from the most current analyzed years (2012-2014) indicated that 71% of harvested males were in the ≥ 3 year-old age class. Percent females in the harvest averaged 48% over the last 3 years (2013-2015). Three-year average (2012-2014) adult female harvest was 48% of the total female harvest (Figure 12).

During the 2014 and 2015 seasons, the majority of mountain lions harvested in the McCall DAU were taken with assistance of hounds (64% and 75%, respectively).

Depredations

One mountain lion-caused livestock depredation incident was reported in the McCall DAU in 2015. The depredation occurred in GMU 24 and involved a total of 9 sheep.

Management Implications

Current 3-year average harvest in the McCall DAU is above the minimum objective. Due to the high accessibility to lion habitat in this DAU, harvest restrictions such as female harvest quotas are necessary to maintain viable populations and subsequent hunter satisfaction.

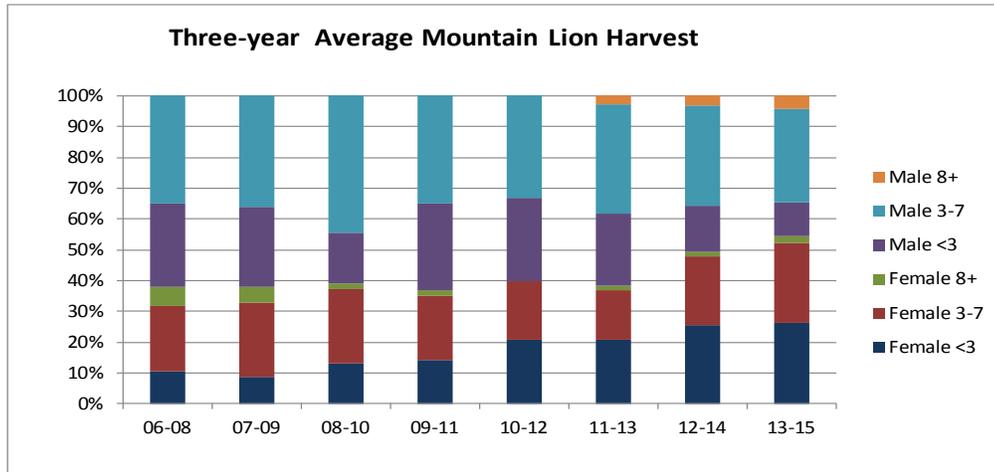
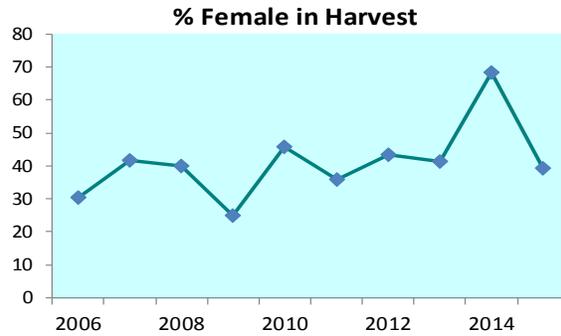
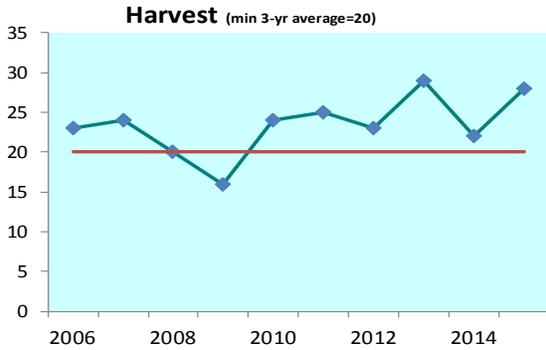


McCall DAW (GMUs 22, 23, 24, 31, 32A)
3,101 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	20	26
Harvest per 100 mi ²		0.9
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	71%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		23	24	20	16	24	25	23	29	22	28
Males	0-2 years	7	9	2	4	3	9	5	2	3	0
	3-7 years	9	5	9	7	8	5	8	11	3	0
	8+ years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	2	1	17
	Subtotal	16	14	12	12	13	16	13	17	7	17
Females	0-2 years	2	1	4	0	3	5	5	4	8	0
	3-7 years	3	7	4	3	6	3	3	5	7	0
	8+ years	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	2	0	11
	Subtotal	7	10	8	4	11	9	10	12	15	11

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 12 McCall DAW status and objectives

Boise-Stanley DAU (GMUs 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39)

Management Objectives

Harvest objectives for the Boise-Stanley DAU are designed to maintain 3-year average harvest levels at or above the 1990-1992 average harvest of 30 mountain lions.

Historical Information

The majority of the Boise-Stanley DAU is forested public land administered by the Boise, Challis and Sawtooth National Forests. However sections of private agricultural also exist in the valley bottoms. A portion of the Treasure Valley—Idaho’s largest metropolitan area—is also found in this DAU. Open, scattered shrub communities at lower elevations and mixed-conifer forests at mid to upper elevations characterize the habitat. Access within the Boise-Stanley DAU ranges from heavily roaded urban areas to roadless wilderness areas.

Lions occurred in lower densities in these GMUs in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Like lion populations in other parts of the state, lion numbers in Boise-Stanley DAU began increasing dramatically in the early 1990s, likely in response to increasing deer and/or elk populations in much of the area. Subsequently, lion sightings, depredation occurrences, and sportsmen concerns for ungulates increased. Conservative seasons adopted in the 1980s were modified to the more liberal seasons currently in place (Appendix A).

Season Structure

No changes occurred to season structure for mountain lions in the Boise-Stanley DAU for the 2014 or 2015 seasons. Female harvest quotas are currently in place in these GMUs (with the exception of GMU 36) to guard against over-harvest of the reproductive portion of the population, but harvest of males-only is permitted through the end of the season after a female harvest quota has been met. GMU 36 contains higher elevation mountainous terrain and has comparatively few wintering ungulates to maintain mountain lions during winter months. The use of dogs is prohibited during open firearm seasons for deer and elk in all GMUs in this DAU (Appendix A).

Harvest Characteristics

Twenty-one mountain lions (14 males, 7 females) were harvested in the Boise-Stanley DAU during the 2014 season, and 30 mountain lions (13 males, 17 females) were harvested during the 2015 season (Figure 13). No female harvest quotas were met in the 2014 or 2015 seasons. The 2014 harvest was 40% less than the previous 3 year average harvest (2011-2013; 35). The 2015 harvest was 5% above the previous 3 year average harvest (2012-2014; 28.7). The 2013-2015 average harvest of 26.3 is 12% below the minimum objective of 30 for this DAU. The overall harvest trend shows a slight decline over the past 10 years.

Age data for the 2015 harvest season are not yet available. Three-year average age data from the most current analyzed years (2012-2014) indicated that 71% of harvested males were in the ≥ 3 year-old age class. Percent females in the harvest averaged 48% over the last 3 years (2013-2015). Three-year average (2012-2014) adult female harvest was 47% of the total female harvest (Figure 13).

During the 2014 and 2015 seasons, the majority of mountain lions harvested in the Boise-Stanley DAU were taken with assistance of hounds (81% and 73%, respectively).

Depredations

One mountain lion was killed in 2014 in this DAU due to conflicts with humans (GMU 39). No mountain lion-caused livestock depredations were reported in the Boise-Stanley DAU in 2014 or 2015.

Management Implications

Current 3-year average harvest in the Boise-Stanley DAU is below the minimum objective. Quotas on female lion harvest, implemented to skew lion harvest toward the male component, probably have little effect in most of the GMUs of this DAU because they are rarely reached.

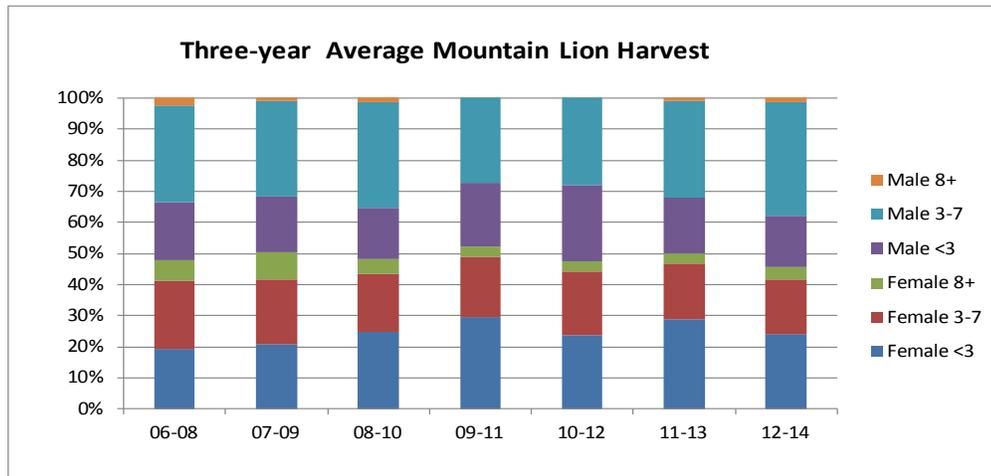
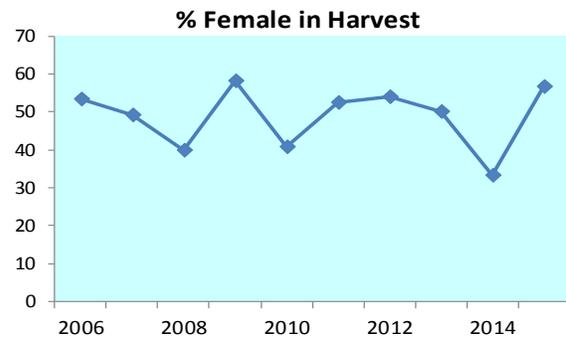
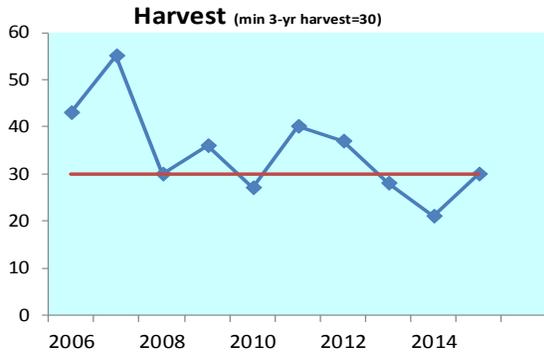


Boise-Stanley DAU (GMUs 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39)
 6,489 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	30	26
Harvest per 100 mi ²		0.5
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	71%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		43	55	30	36	27	40	37	28	21	30
Males	0-2 years	6	12	4	4	6	9	8	0	5	0
	3-7 years	11	14	12	8	9	8	9	12	8	0
	8+ years	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Unknown	1	2	1	3	1	2	0	1	1	13
	Subtotal	20	28	18	15	16	19	17	14	14	13
Females	0-2 years	11	7	5	11	5	11	6	10	3	0
	3-7 years	9	12	5	6	5	7	7	3	4	0
	8+ years	1	6	1	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
	Unknown	2	2	1	1	1	3	4	1	0	17
	Subtotal	23	27	12	21	11	21	20	14	7	17

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 13 Boise-Stanley DAU status and objectives

Owyhee DAU (GMUs 40, 41, 42, 46, 47)

Management Objectives

harvest objectives for the Owyhee DAU are designed to maintain 3-year average harvest levels at or above the 1990-1992 average harvest of 20 mountain lions.

The management direction for this DAU is to encourage sport harvest of mountain lions in GMUs where there is a concern about the impacts of lion predation on California bighorn sheep herds while maintaining a viable mountain lion population throughout the area. Liberal seasons are offered (Appendix A), particularly in GMUs 41 and 42, where there is some concern about the impacts of mountain lions on bighorn sheep.

Historical Information

Owyhee DAU encompasses the southwest portion of Idaho. The habitat is largely open sagebrush desert with interspersed canyon lands ranging to dry forested mountains. The remoteness of the area and general scarcity of trees and presence of cliffs, caves, and other rocky features in parts of these GMUs make mountain lions more difficult to capture with hounds than in many other areas of Idaho. Deer are the primary big game prey species for mountain lions in most of the DAU. Downward trends in California bighorn sheep populations in the Jacks Creek drainages in GMU 41 and the Owyhee River drainage in GMU 42 prompted the initiation of research on bighorn sheep survival in the Little Jacks and Big Jacks Creek drainages in 2002. Results suggest mountain lions may have contributed to the decline of sheep in this system. The sheep population seems to have stabilized in recent years, and a study initiated in 2011 did not indicate that mountain lions were significantly impacting sheep in these GMUs.

Because of the concern about the impacts of lion predation on bighorn sheep, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission passed regulations to legalize the use of electronic calls as an aid to harvest mountain lions in GMUs 41 and 42 in 2000.

Season Structure

No changes occurred to season structure for mountain lions in the Owyhee DAU for the 2014 or 2015 seasons. Female harvest quotas are currently in place in some GMUs (40, 46, 47) to guard against over-harvest of the reproductive portion of the population, but harvest of males-only is permitted through the end of the season after a female harvest quota has been met (Appendix A). There has been no female quota in GMUs 41 or 42 since the 2006 season. The use of electronic calls is permitted in GMUs 41 and 42. The use of dogs is prohibited during open firearm seasons for deer and elk in all GMUs in this DAU (Appendix A).

Harvest Characteristics

Twenty-five mountain lions (13 males, 12 females) were harvested in the Owyhee DAU during the 2014 season, and 30 mountain lions (20 males, 10 females) were harvested during the 2015 season (Figure 13). No female harvest quotas were met in the 2014 or 2015 seasons. The 2014 harvest was consistent with the previous 3 year average harvest (2011-2013; 24.7). The 2015 harvest was 12% above the previous 3 year average harvest (2012-2014; 26.7). The 2013-2015

average harvest of 28 exceeds the minimum objective of 20 for this DAU. The overall harvest trend shows a slight increase in harvest over the past 10 years.

Age data for the 2015 harvest season are not yet available. Three-year average age data from the most current analyzed years (2012-2014) indicated that 52% of harvested males were in the ≥ 3 year-old age class. Percent females in the harvest averaged 39% over the last 3 years (2013-2015). Three-year average (2012-2014) adult female harvest was 59% of the total female harvest (Figure 14).

During the 2014 and 2015 seasons, the majority of mountain lions harvested in the Owyhee DAU were taken with assistance of hounds (80% and 67%, respectively).

Depredations

No mountain lion depredations were reported in the Owyhee DAU in 2014 or 2015.

Management Implications

Current 3-year average harvest in the Owyhee DAU meets the minimum objective. Quotas on female lion harvest, implemented to skew lion harvest toward the male component, probably have little effect in most of the GMUs of this DAU because they are rarely reached.

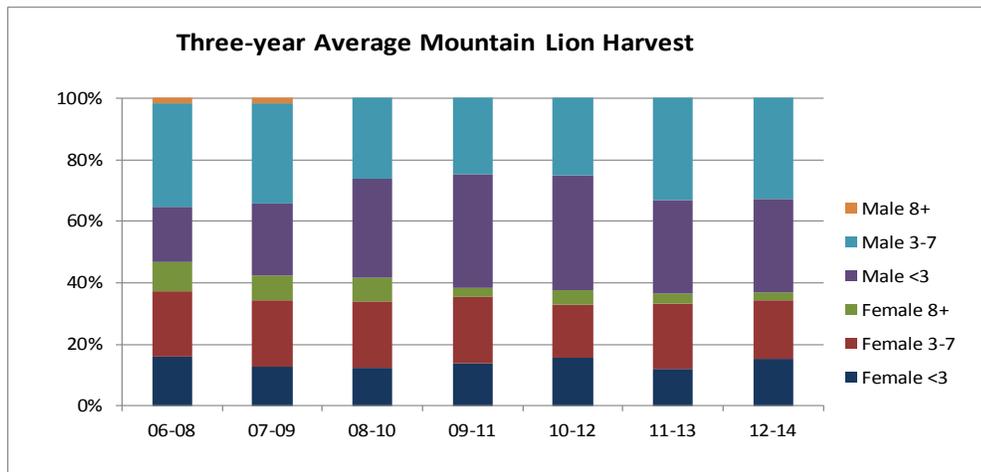
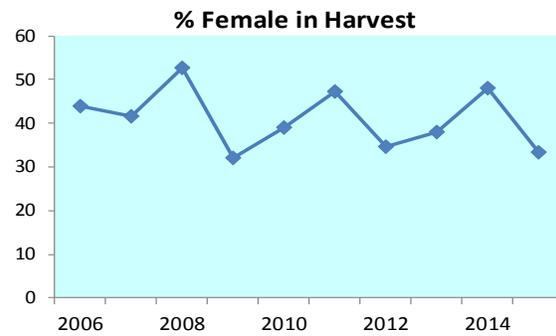
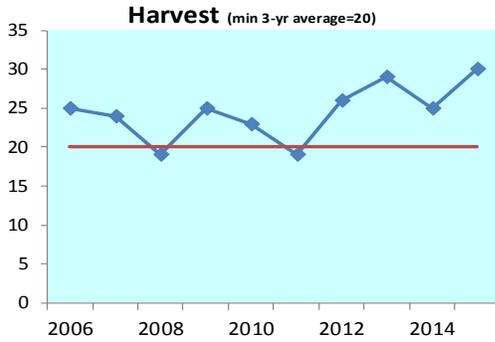


Owyhee DAU (GMUs 40, 41, 42, 46, 47)
 9,106 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	20	28
Harvest per 100 mi ²		0.3
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	52%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		25	24	19	25	23	19	26	29	25	30
Males	0-2 years	5	4	2	9	10	5	9	6	7	0
	3-7 years	8	8	5	8	4	4	8	10	6	0
	8+ years	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	20
	Subtotal	14	14	9	17	14	10	17	18	13	20
Females	0-2 years	5	3	2	3	3	3	4	1	6	0
	3-7 years	4	4	5	5	4	5	2	7	5	0
	8+ years	1	2	3	0	2	0	1	1	0	0
	Unknown	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	10
	Subtotal	11	10	10	8	9	9	9	11	12	10

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 14 Owyhee DAU status and objectives

MAGIC VALLEY REGION

Abstract

Mandatory reports indicated a harvest of 40 mountain lions in the Sun Valley and Oakley DAUs during the 2014 season. Sixteen mountain lions were harvested in the Sun Valley DAU and 24 in the Oakley DAU. The female quota was not reached in any of the GMUs within the Sun Valley or Oakley DAUs. Sixteen of the 40 (40%) mountain lions harvested in the 2014 season were females.

Mandatory reports indicated a harvest of 45 mountain lions in the Sun Valley and Oakley DAUs during the 2015 season. Thirteen mountain lions were harvested in the Sun Valley DAU and 32 in the Oakley DAU. The female quota was not reached in any of the GMUs within the Sun Valley or Oakley DAUs. Eight of the 45 (17%) mountain lions harvested in the 2015 season were females.

Sun Valley DAU (GMUs 36A, 43, 44, 48, 49, 50)

Management Objectives

Broad harvest management goals for all DAUs were developed in the 2002-2010 Mountain Lion Management Plan to maintain current lion population levels, maintain a diversity of sport harvest opportunities, be responsive to human conflicts, and develop better lion population monitoring tools. Specific harvest objectives for Sun Valley DAU are currently limited to maintaining a 3-year average minimum harvest of 13 lions. The 3-year average harvest for 2013-2015 for the Sun Valley DAU was 12.

Historical Information

Sun Valley DAU has accounted for an average of 40% of the mountain lion harvest in Magic Valley Region over the last 10 years. Prior to 1994, most mountain lion depredations on livestock occurred in these GMUs. However, in recent years, depredations have been rare.

Season Structure

Harvest Characteristics

The season structure has remained constant in recent years with a season length of 214 days beginning 30 August (Appendix A). Sixteen mountain lions were harvested in the Sun Valley DAU during the 2014 and 13 in the 2015 seasons (Figure 15). The current 3-year average harvest of 12 lions is slightly below the 1990-1992 minimum season harvest objective of 13. The female quota of 6 lions was not met in GMUs 43, 44, 48, or 49 during this performance period. There are currently no female quotas in place for GMUs 36A and 50.

While the percentage of females in the harvest has remained relatively consistent since 2001, age data from the 2004-2014 seasons indicate that the proportion of adult lions (≥ 3 years old) in the harvest has decreased in the last two years. The three-year mean percent of adult lions in the harvest has moved from the low fifties, with a low of 50% in the 2003-2005 mean, to a peak of 82% in the 2007-2009 mean, remained in the high 70s, then dropped to the mid 40s in the last

three years. The three year average of adult males ≥ 3 year of age (2012-2014) was 63% (Figure 15). Ages for 2015 were not available at this time.

Depredations

Mountain lion depredations are uncommon in the Sun Valley DAU with an average of <1 depredation per year since 2000. Department personnel responded to 1 complaint of depredating lions within the Sun Valley DAU during the 2011 reporting period resulting in 1 lion lethally removed.

Management Implications

Total harvest in this DAU remains relatively stable, with a peak of 22 in 2007 and a subsequent low of 6 in 2013. The 2013, 2014, 2015, 3-year averages of 12 lions is slightly below the minimum harvest objective for this DAU. The recent trend has been for an increasing proportion of adults in the harvest. This may indicate a lack of immigration into the population as a result of relatively high densities.

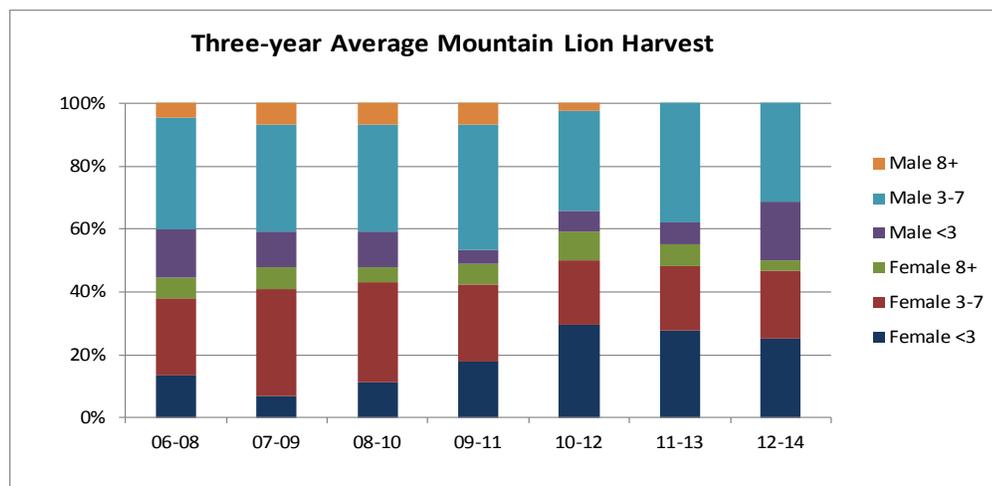
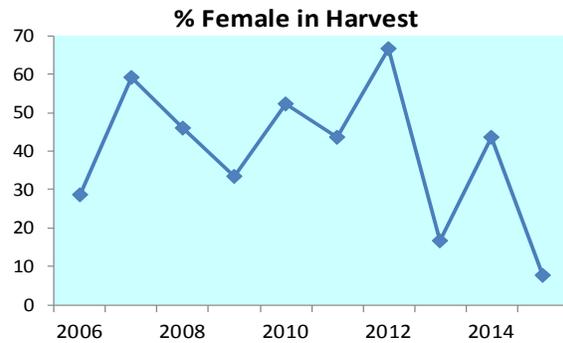
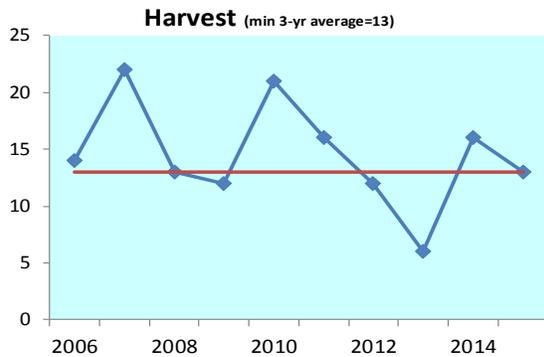


Sun Valley DAU (GMUs 36A, 43, 44, 48, 49, 50) 5,114 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	13	12
Harvest per 100 mi ²		0.3
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	63%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		14	22	13	12	21	16	12	6	16	13
Males	0-2 years	3	1	3	1	1	0	2	0	4	0
	3-7 years	6	7	3	5	7	6	1	4	5	0
	8+ years	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	1	0	1	3	1	1	0	12
	Subtotal	10	9	7	8	10	9	4	5	9	12
Females	0-2 years	3	3	0	0	5	3	5	0	3	0
	3-7 years	0	5	6	4	4	3	2	1	4	0
	8+ years	0	3	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
	Unknown	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Subtotal	4	13	6	4	11	7	8	1	7	1

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 15. Sun Valley DAU status and objectives

Oakley DAU (GMUs 54, 55, 56, 57)

Management Objectives

Broad harvest management goals for all DAUs were developed in the 2002-2010 Mountain Lion Management Plan to maintain current lion population levels, maintain a diversity of sport harvest opportunities, be responsive to human conflicts, and develop better lion population monitoring tools. Specific harvest objectives for Oakley DAU are currently limited to maintaining a 3-year average minimum harvest of 12 lions. The 3-year average harvest for 2013-2015 for the Oakley DAUs was 26.

Historical Information

GMUs in Oakley DAU have accounted for an average of 61% of the mountain lion harvest in Magic Valley Region during the last 10 years. GMU 54 consistently has the highest annual mountain lion harvest of any management GMU in the region.

Most of the GMUs within this DAU have had female quotas since the 1980s. Therefore, female harvest in these GMUs has generally been very conservative. However, it should be noted that female quotas increased regularly during the early 1990s, and regrouping of GMUs has taken place numerous times. There is currently a quota of 6 females each for GMUs 54 and 55. A historical perspective of female quotas and grouping of GMUs can be found in the 2001-2002 report.

Season Structure

Harvest Characteristics

The season structure has remained constant in recent years with a season length of 214 days beginning 30 August (Appendix A). The female quota of 6 lions was not met in any GMU during this reporting period. Twenty-four mountain lions were harvested in the Oakley DAU during the 2014 season and 32 mountain lions were harvested during the 2015 season. These levels exceeded the 1990-1992 minimum harvest objective of 116 (Figure 16).

Total lion harvest has remained relatively constant over the past 10 years, with the exception of 2015 having a 46% increase in total harvest. The 3 year average of male lions ≥ 3 year of age (2012-2014) was 67%. Ages for 2015 were not available. Males continue to constitute the majority of the mountain lion harvest in this DAU (Figure 16).

Depredations

Mountain lion depredations are uncommon in the Oakley DAU with an average of <1 depredation per year since 2000. There were no depredations during this reporting period.

Management Implications

Current harvest strategies in this DAU resulted in slightly decreased annual harvest from 1997 through 2000, but annual harvest has remained relatively unchanged through 2014, and still well above the minimum objective average harvest of 12. The increased harvest observed in 2015

may indicate a rising population due to the last three winters being relatively mild resulting in growing populations of prey species; specifically mule deer. As prey numbers fluctuate, harvest levels may need to be manipulated in order to continue to meet established objectives.

Distribution of males and females in the harvest fluctuated in the late 1990s through the mid-2000s. However, these fluctuations have moderated over the past 5 years. In general, males have comprised the majority of the harvest; indicative of light harvest pressure

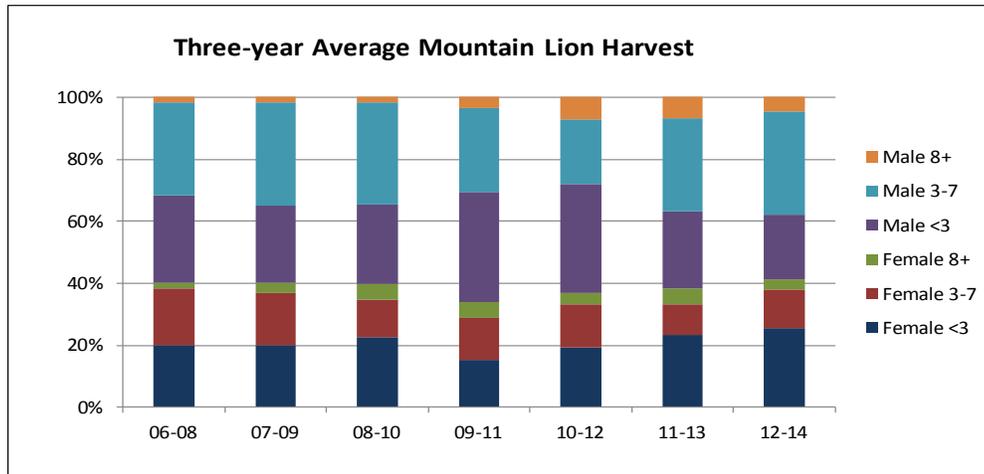
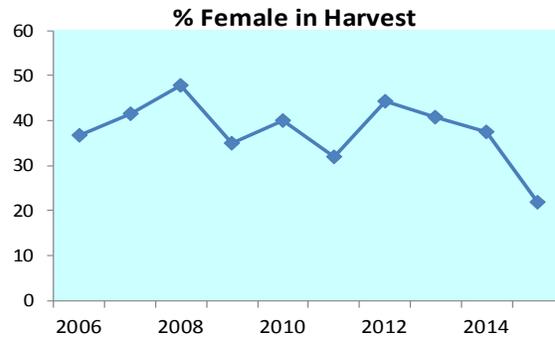
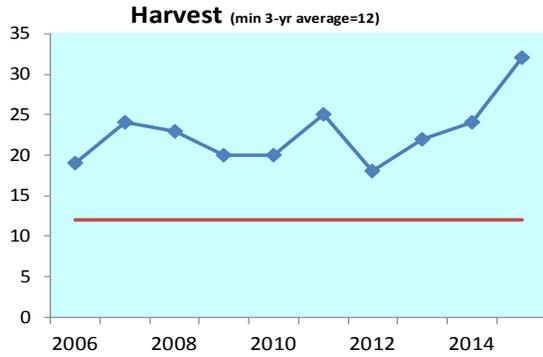


Oakley DAU (GMUs 54, 55, 56, 57) 3,675 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	12	26
Harvest per 100 mi ²		0.9
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	67%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		19	24	23	20	20	25	18	22	24	32
Males	0-2 years	5	8	4	3	8	10	2	3	8	0
	3-7 years	7	4	7	9	3	4	5	9	7	0
	8+ years	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0
	Unknown	0	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	25
	Subtotal	12	14	12	13	12	17	10	13	15	25
Females	0-2 years	3	2	7	3	3	3	5	6	5	0
	3-7 years	4	6	1	3	3	2	3	1	4	0
	8+ years	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	0
	Unknown	0	2	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	7
	Subtotal	7	10	11	7	8	8	8	9	9	7

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 16 Oakley DAU status and objectives

SOUTHEAST REGION

Abstract

Information and data from GMUs within the Pocatello DAU were previously included in reports from the Southeast and Upper Snake regions.

A total of 70 mountain lions (43 males, 27 females) were reported harvested in the Pocatello DAU during the report period that spans the 2014 and 2015 hunting seasons.

Pocatello DAU (GMUs 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 73A, 74)

Management Objectives

The Department's Mountain Lion Management Plan was rewritten in 2002. Specific objectives regarding sex and age composition of the harvest will be developed in the near future. Management policy and strategy calls for maintaining viable populations of lions in Idaho while maintaining harvest at levels at or above those of the early 1990s where appropriate. Harvest levels in that period were significantly lower than those of the mid-to late 1990s and early 2000s.

Historical Information

The mountain lion was first classified as a big game species in Idaho in 1972. Mountain lion tags have been required since 1975. Mountain lion numbers are believed to have been low in the Southeast Region during the 1950s and 1960s when annual harvest in eastern Idaho averaged from 2 to 4 animals. Population information is sparse; however, increased sightings, increased depredations, and increased harvest all suggest that mountain lion populations have increased over recent historic levels. Populations of the main prey species, mule deer, fluctuate widely and are currently at moderate levels. A large livestock industry in southeastern Idaho and the concern for depredations has and will probably continue to influence mountain lion populations and management.

From 1991 – 1997 and again from 1999 – 2000, the region was divided into a west district (GMUs 70, 71, 73, 73A, 74) and an east district (GMUs 66A, 72, 75, 76, 77, 78) with a female harvest quota for each district. In 1999, GMU 74 was moved from the western to eastern quota district. Quotas varied from 2 females per district to 15 in the west and 5 in the east district.

GMU's 70, 71, 73, and 73A served as 'mountain lion harvest treatments' for the mule deer research project conducted from 1998 through 2003. Management was intended to maintain relatively higher harvest than in adjacent 'control' GMU's with lower harvest levels (Hurley et al. 2011).

Due to pressure from sportsmen's groups and a commitment to the Mule Deer Initiative, the Department initiated a general lion season with no female quotas across the Southeast Region for the 2005 – 2009 mountain lion seasons. Starting for the 2010 Big Game Season, a female quota of 22 was established for the entire southeast region which includes GMUs from the Pocatello DAU (70, 71, 72, 73, 73A, 74), the Snake River DAU (68, 68A), and the Bear Lake-Palisades DAU (66A, 75, 76, 77, 78).

Mountain lion harvest opportunity within the southeast region ceases once the female quota has been reached or at the closing date for that hunting season, whichever occurs first. If the female quota is reached prior to the closing date, pursuit-only opportunity is allowed until the close of the season. It is mandatory that all mountain lions harvested by hunters are checked and pelts tagged by the Department. Harvest data and characteristics are taken from these mandatory checks.

Season Structure

Within the southeast region, the 2014-2015 mountain lion take seasons were from 30 August through 31 March (Appendix A). Dogs remained prohibited from 1 October to 30 November in all of the Pocatello DAU. The female harvest quota remained set at 22 for the entire southeast region.

Harvest Characteristics

Reported harvest of lions from the Pocatello DAU for the 2014 season was 22; 16 males and 6 females (Figure 17). Reported harvest of lions from the Pocatello DAU for the 2015 season was 48; 27 males and 21 females. The 3 year average (2012-2014) of male's ≥ 3 year of age was 52%. Ages were not available for 2015 at the time of this report.

Hound hunting comprised 83% and 79% of the harvest in 2014 and 2015, respectively. Incidental harvest (generally lions taken while deer or elk hunting), still/stalk, and predator calling accounted for the remainder.

Depredations

Wildlife Services responds to mountain lion depredation issues in concert with the Department. One mountain lion was removed by Wildlife Services for depredations during the reporting period.

Management Implications

During the period 1981–1990, the annual harvest of mountain lions in southeast Idaho was low (0 – 10). Seventeen mountain lions were reported harvested in 1990, prompting the establishment of a female quota beginning in 1991. As the quotas gradually increased during the 1990's, the harvest increased significantly, reaching a high of 94 females in 1998.

Male/female ratios in the harvest have generally ranged between 1:1 and 2:1. Females comprised 26.1 % and 43.8 % of the harvest in 2014 and 2015, respectively. Extremely mild snow conditions during the 2014 season likely affected hunter success rates. Effects to the mountain lion population of recent record-level harvests are unknown. Tracking the age structure within the harvest to identify changes in mountain lion population structure will continue to be important.

Low deer populations in the mid-1990s prompted many hunters to suggest that lion predation was a significant limiting factor and to favor reducing lion populations through increased harvest. The Department implemented a deer research project in southeast Idaho in 1998 which, in part, looked at whether varying levels of lion harvest influenced deer population response.

Increased lion harvest did show some short term positive effect on deer survival, but did not indicate any change in population trends (Hurley et. al. 2011).

Continuing concern for the Southeast Region's mule deer herd resulted in the removal of the female harvest quota in previous years. This, however, generated concern among lion hunters regarding healthy lion populations and opportunities for future trophy lion hunting.

During the season setting process in the spring of 2010, lion hunter comments unanimously favored some form of protection for the female portion of the lion population. As a result, in an effort to compromise between the lion hunting and mule deer hunting publics, a region wide female lion harvest quota was set at 22 females.

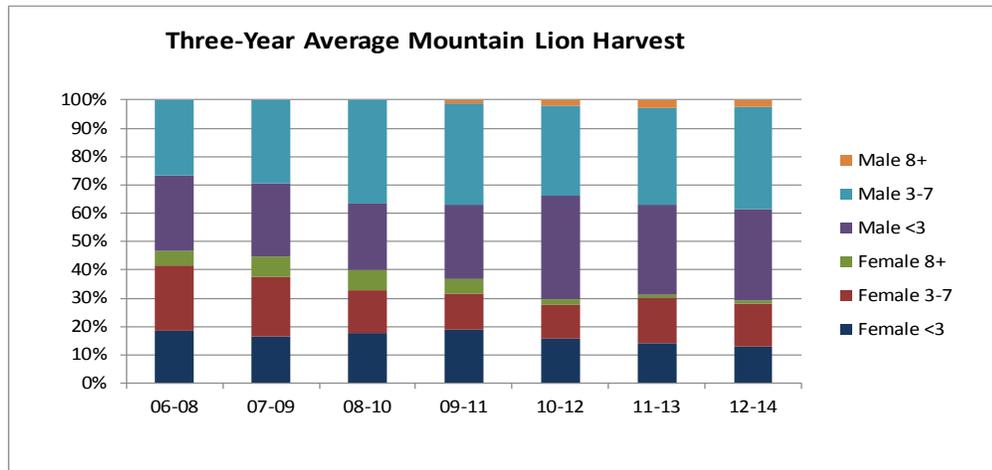
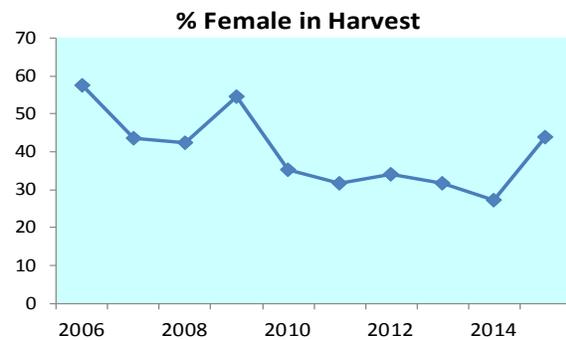
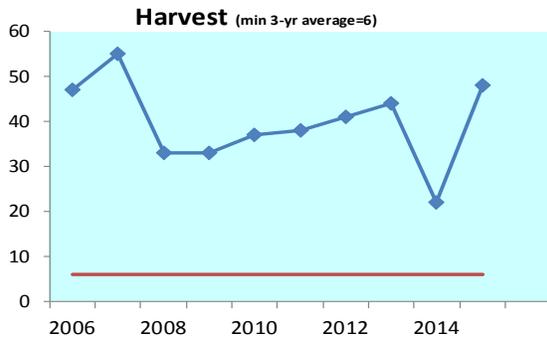


Pocatello DAU (GMUs 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 73A, 74)
 5,241 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	6	38
Harvest per 100 mi ²		0.9
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	52%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		47	55	33	33	37	38	41	44	22	48
Males	0-2 years	7	15	8	2	10	13	14	7	7	0
	3-7 years	12	11	7	11	13	10	9	17	5	0
	8+ years	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
	Unknown	1	5	4	2	1	2	3	5	4	27
	Subtotal	20	31	19	15	24	26	27	30	16	27
Females	0-2 years	11	6	4	6	5	7	4	4	3	0
	3-7 years	10	10	6	5	2	5	5	7	1	0
	8+ years	2	3	1	3	2	0	0	1	0	0
	Unknown	4	5	3	4	4	0	5	2	2	21
	Subtotal	27	24	14	18	13	12	14	14	6	21

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 17 Pocatello DAU status and objectives

UPPER SNAKE REGION

Abstract

The Department revised its mountain lion management plan during the 2002-2003 reporting period. The plan established new DAUs and the region is now included in 5 different DAUs that also overlap parts of other regions. Upper Snake Region is responsible for reporting on Snake River and Bear Lake-Palisades DAUs.

Thirteen and 11 mountain lions were reported harvested in Snake River Plain DAU in 2014 and 2015, respectively (Figure 18). Twenty eight and 22 lions were harvested in Bear Lake-Palisades DAU in 2014 and 2015, respectively (Figure. 18). Harvest was determined from hunter reports as required by Fish and Game Commission regulation. There was a female mountain lion quota of 22 for the GMUs managed by the Southeast Region in the Bear Lake-Palisades and Snake River DAUs during the 2013 season. Information on lion depredation complaints for this reporting period from Wildlife Services did not include any verified mountain lion depredations or removals.

Snake River Plain DAU (GMUs 38, 45, 52, 52A, 53, 60, 60A, 61, 62, 62A, 63, 63A, 68, 68A)

Management Objectives

Specific objectives regarding sex and age composition of the harvest have not been developed for this DAU. The current Mountain Lion Management Plan states that initial harvest goals will be to maintain harvest levels on a 3-year running average that are at or above the 3-year average harvest for the 1990-1992 lion seasons. From 2013-2015, harvest averaged 13 lions per year. This level is over 8 times higher than the 1990-1992 minimum harvest objective of 1.5.

Historical Information

In general, these GMUs have marginal lion habitat, lack year-round prey sources, and lie on the margins of areas with established lion populations. Lion presence tends to be occasional transient lions from other areas having established territorial lion populations.

Season Structure

Hunting seasons have varied from closed to 214 days with some having female quotas and others with no female quotas; however, none of these GMUs have had female quotas since the 2004 harvest season (Appendix A).

Harvest Characteristics

Harvest has been light but has increased since 2007. Harvest has varied in age and sex composition (Figure 18) and most occurs by the use of hounds. During the 2014 season, 38% of successful mountain lion hunters used hounds and during the 2015 season 27% of successful hunters used hounds. Harvest has varied from 2-16 for the 1994-2013 seasons and has also varied from all male to all female. From 2000 to 2012, most (52%) reported lion harvest has occurred from GMU 45 while no lions were reported from GMUs 63, or 68. The 3 year average (2012-2014) of male's ≥ 3 years of age was 62%. Ages for 2015 were not available at the time of this report.

Depredations

No lion depredation complaints were verified during this reporting period from Wildlife Services.

Management Implications

GMUs included in this DAU are managed by the Southwest (GMU 38), Magic Valley (GMUs 45, 52, 52A, and 53), Upper Snake (GMUs 60, 60A, 61, 62, 62A, 63, and 63A) and Southeast (GMUs 68 and 68A) regions. As stated in the historical section, this DAU is basically a population sink area for several adjacent areas that act as source populations for lions harvested in this DAU. Prior to 2004, hunting season restrictions varied between these administrative regions. As of 2009 it varies again with a female quota of 22 spread throughout the Southeast region's GMU's. Hunter access, winter conditions, and vulnerability of lions to harvest also varies throughout this DAU. Therefore, it is difficult to manage lions in this DAU based on data collected. As long as harvest remains light and principally opportunistic, there is probably no need for more intense monitoring or management. Individual regions, especially Magic Valley Region, will need to monitor harvest for their GMUs to ensure it is consistent with local public desires.

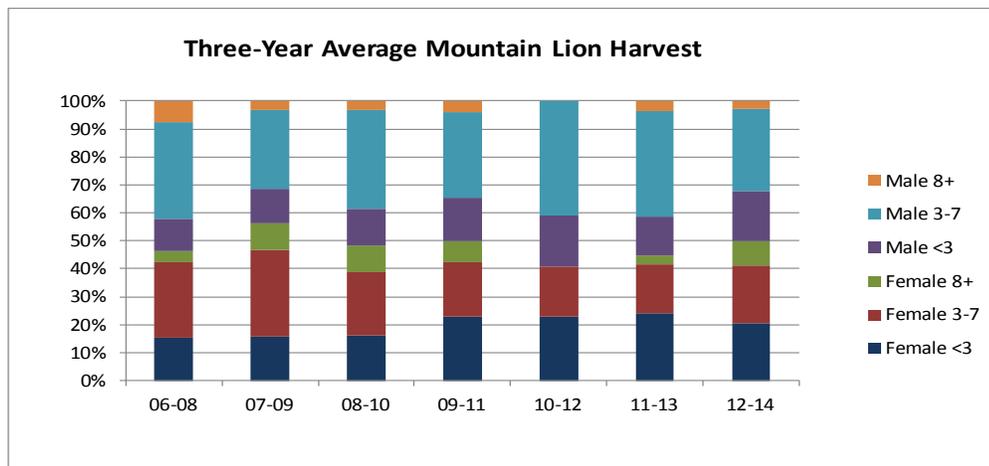
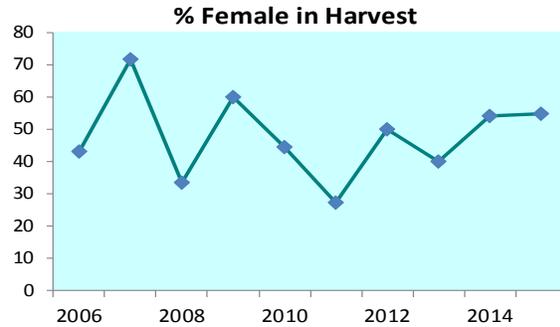
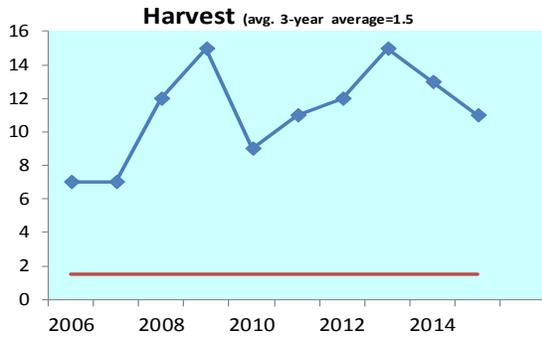


**Snake River Plain DAU (GMUs 38, 45, 52, 52A 53, 60, 60A, 61, 62, 62A, 63, 63A, 68, 68A)
15,316 Sq Miles**

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	1.5	13
Harvest per 100 mi ²		0.1
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	62%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		7	7	12	15	9	11	12	15	13	11
Males	0-2 years	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	3	0
	3-7 years	1	1	7	1	3	4	2	5	3	0
	8+ years	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	2	1	3	2	2	0	5
	Subtotal	4	2	8	6	5	8	6	9	6	5
Females	0-2 years	2	1	1	3	1	2	2	3	2	0
	3-7 years	1	4	2	4	1	0	3	2	2	0
	8+ years	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	6
	Subtotal	3	5	4	9	4	3	6	6	7	6

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 18 Snake River Plain DAU status and objectives

Bear Lake-Palisades DAU (GMUs 64, 65, 66, 66A, 67, 75, 76, 77, 78)

Management Objectives

Specific objectives regarding sex and age composition of the harvest have not been developed for this DAU. The current Mountain Lion Management Plan states that initial harvest goals will be to maintain the harvest level on a 3-year running average at or above the 3-year average harvest for the 1990-1992 big game seasons. From 2013-2015, harvest averaged 24 lions per year. This level is more than 4 times higher than the 1990-1992 minimum harvest objective of 6 lions.

Historical Information

This DAU lies along the Idaho-Wyoming state line from the Teton Valley south to the Utah state line and is managed by both Upper Snake (GMUs 64, 65, 66, and 67) and Southeast (GMUs 66A, 75, 76, 77, and 78) regions. Mountain lions in this area tend to be associated with lions from the Pocatello DAU and Utah but separated from other lion populations in Idaho and Wyoming. No data exists to determine if lions in this area comprise 1 population with different concentration areas or if several different semi-isolated populations exist.

Season Structure

Hunting seasons have ranged from closed in some GMUs to liberal with no quotas in other GMUs. GMUs 64, 65, 66, and 67 did not have a female quota for the 2004 harvest season and none of the GMUs in the DAU have had a female quota since 2005. However, since 2010 the GMU's in the Southeast region have a combined female quota of 22 (Appendix A).

Harvest Characteristics

Harvest has been quite variable and ranged from 12 in 1996 to 46 in 1998. Adult female harvest has averaged 43% since 2006 which, following Anderson and Lindzey's (2005) research, indicates a lion population being harvested at a level that will result in declining population density. From 2012-2014, 24% of the harvest were male lions under 2 years old, 54% were male lions 3 years and older, 20% were subadult females, and 16% were adult female (Figure 19. Age data for harvested lions in 2015 are not yet available.

During the 2014-2015 seasons, an average of 64 % of successful mountain lion hunters used hounds and 18% of take was incidental.

Management Implications

GMUs within this DAU are managed by Upper Snake and Southeast regions and were previously parts of other DAUs. Consequently, hunting seasons have varied from area to area and from year to year. However, in 2005, GMUs within this DAU had the same lion season with no female quotas. It is desirable to maintain the same season for all GMUs within the DAU for 3 or more years to determine what direction the lion population(s) within the DAU is going. In 2010 there was a female quota applied to the GMUs in the Southeast Region.

There is a need to monitor more closely the percent adult females harvested. Anderson and Lindzey (2005) found that when the adult (≥ 3 -year-old) female harvest averaged 25% or greater,

the lion population declined. If their research results are correct, we could see a decline in the lion population if the percentage of adult females in the harvest increases again.

Literature Cited

Anderson, C. R. Jr., and F. G. Lindzey. 2005. Experimental evaluation of population trend and harvest composition in a Wyoming cougar population. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 33(1):179-188.

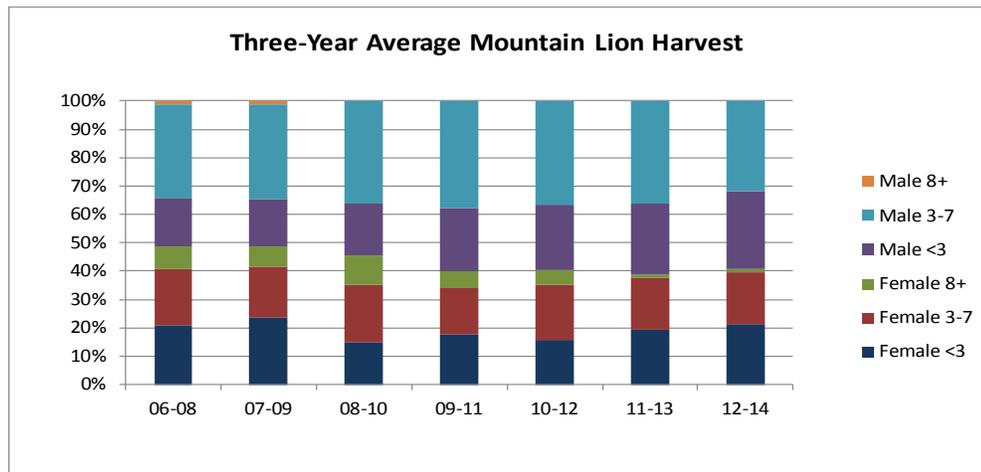
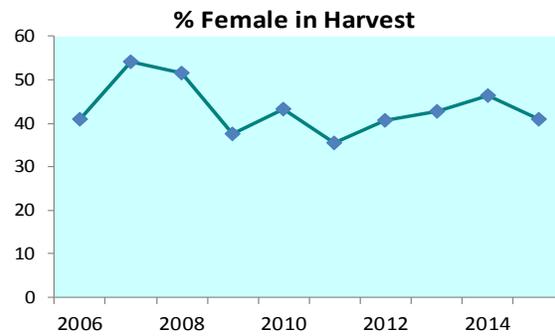
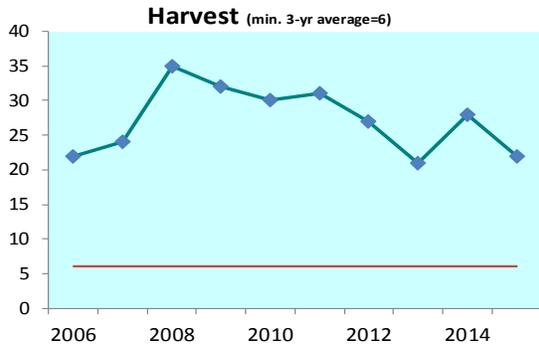


Bear Lake-Palisades DAW (GMUs 64, 65, 66, 66A, 67, 75, 76, 77, 78)
3,928 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	6	24
Harvest per 100 mi ²		0.6
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	54%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		22	24	35	32	30	31	27	21	28	22
Males	0-2 years	5	4	4	6	6	7	6	5	7	0
	3-7 years	8	6	11	11	10	11	9	6	6	0
	8+ years	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	2	3	1	2	1	1	2	13
	Subtotal	13	11	17	20	17	20	16	12	15	13
Females	0-2 years	3	9	4	7	2	6	5	3	6	0
	3-7 years	3	3	9	3	6	5	5	3	4	0
	8+ years	1	1	4	1	4	0	0	1	0	0
	Unknown	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	2	3	9
	Subtotal	9	13	18	12	13	11	11	9	13	9

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 19 Bear Lake Palisades DAW status and objectives

SALMON REGION

Abstract

Salmon DAU (GMUs 21, 21A, 28, 36B)

Management Objectives

Follow statewide management direction in the 2002-2010 Mountain Lion Management Plan. Objectives are to maintain distribution of mountain lions and maintain harvest at or above 1990-1992 levels. Specific objectives regarding sex and age composition of the harvest will be developed in the near future (e.g., $\leq 40\%$ females in the harvest, $\geq 20\%$ of males ≥ 5 years old).

Historical Information

Salmon DAU is comprised primarily of drainages west of the upper Salmon River. Elevations vary from 3,000 to 11,000 feet and include sagebrush grasslands, river breaks, mixed conifer forests, and sub-alpine habitats.

The DAU supports mountain lion populations that are generally accessible during winter. Both deer and elk are abundant prey species with bighorn sheep and mountain goats locally common. Salmon DAU mountain lion populations are likely partly sustained by immigration from adjacent, less-hunted wilderness populations (e.g., Warren DAU). During 1995 and 1996, wolves were reintroduced in Salmon and Warren DAUs. Wolves are well established within the DAU, and a harvest season was implemented beginning in 2009. . Depredation problems are not a major concern in Salmon DAU.

Season Structure

During 1996-1997, the general mountain lion season in Salmon DAU was extended by 15 days from 31 January to 15 February. The 1999-2000 season was extended by another 61 days (30 Aug to 31 Mar) because of an apparent continued increase in mountain lion populations. With 17 days added to the beginning and 44 days at the end, total season length became 214 days. This season structure remained the same in 2010 (Appendix A). In general, dogs may be used when a firearm season for deer or elk is not open. Neither spotted young nor female mountain lions accompanied by young may be taken. There were no dog-training seasons in Salmon DAU GMUs.

Harvest Characteristics

The 2014 harvest of 11 mountain lions was considerably lower than the 3-year running average of 17, and well below the high of 33 mountain lions harvested in 2009 (Figure 20). The 2014 harvest corresponds to a poor snow year. The 3-year average harvest has steadily declined from the most recent high of 30 mountain lions in 2009 to the current range of 17-18 over the past 3 years.

During the 2014 season, 8 of 11 mountain lions harvested in the Salmon DAU were taken with assistance of hounds and the remaining taken incidentally to other hunting.

Mountain lion harvest in 2015 increased to 20 after a record low of 11 during the preceding year (Figure 19). The 3-year running average increased slightly to 18 mountain lions, which remains above the harvest objective of a minimum of 15 specified in the 2002-2010 management plan.

During the 2015 season, 14 of 20 mountain lions harvested in the Salmon DAU were taken with assistance of hounds and the remaining taken incidentally to other hunting

During 2014, 3 of 11 (27%) mountain lions harvested were females. In 2015, 6 of 20 (30%) harvested mountain lions were female. Over the longer term, the 3-year running average of the female component of harvest appears to be declining from the most recent high of 43% in 2009 to 37% and 30% in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

Age structure for mountain lions harvested in 2015 is indeterminate, pending results from cementum annuli data from teeth submitted for analysis. The most recent data (through 2014) indicated the majority of mountain lions harvested were adults (60% ≥ 3 years old), and that sex and age structure of harvested mountain lions had not fluctuated significantly from 2012-2014; however, age-sex harvest data over the most recent timeframe of available data suggested an increase in young males with a concurrent reduction of older males, as well as a relatively high proportion of females and adult females in the harvest.

Depredations

There were no mountain lion depredations in the Salmon DAU during this reporting period.

Management Implications

Following initiation of mandatory checking in 1973, mountain lion harvest in Salmon DAU increased to a peak in the mid-1990s and has since declined. Increased harvest probably reflected mountain lion population increases as a result of prey population increases. Current (2014-15) age-specific harvest data is pending, precluding any assessment of current harvest trends. However, the most recent (up to 2013) age-sex harvest data available showed an increase in young males in the harvest with a concomitant decline in adult males, and moderate-to-high harvests of females and adult females. These indices—along with a declining trend in total harvest—are suggestive of a declining population, warranting a closer of pending and future age-sex harvest data.

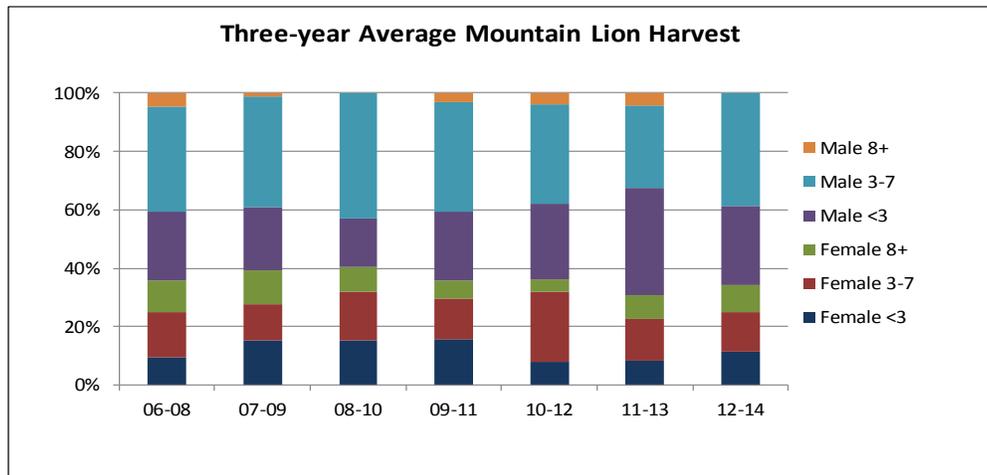
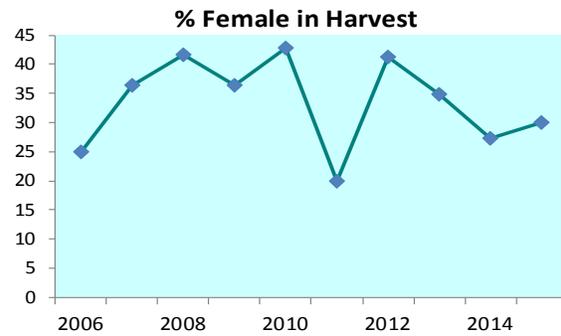
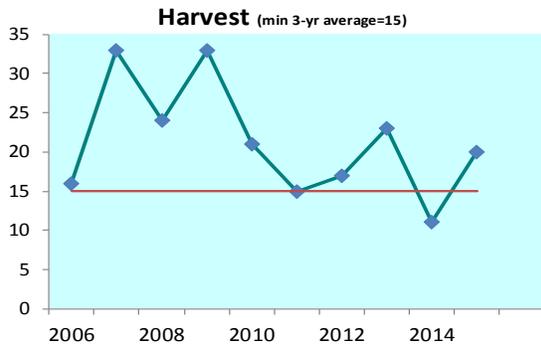


Salmon Zone DAU (GMUs 21, 21A, 28, 36B)
2,678 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	15	18
Harvest per 100 mi ²		0.7
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	60%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		16	33	24	33	21	15	17	23	11	20
Males	0-2 years	4	6	5	6	1	8	4	6	2	0
	3-7 years	4	10	9	11	11	2	4	8	5	0
	8+ years	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	2	4	0	4	0	0	2	1	1	14
	Subtotal	12	21	14	21	12	12	10	15	8	14
Females	0-2 years	1	3	2	7	2	1	1	2	2	0
	3-7 years	2	4	4	2	6	1	5	1	0	0
	8+ years	1	4	2	3	1	0	1	3	0	0
	Unknown	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	6
	Subtotal	4	12	10	12	9	3	7	8	3	6

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 20 Salmon DAU status and objectives

Borah DAU (GMUs 29, 30, 30A, 37, 37A, 51, 58, 59, 59A)

Management Objectives

Follow statewide management direction in the 2002-2010 Mountain Lion Management Plan. Objectives are to maintain distribution of mountain lions and maintain harvest at or above 1990-1992 levels. Specific objectives regarding sex and age composition of harvested mountain lions will be developed in the near future (e.g., $\leq 40\%$ females in the harvest, $\geq 20\%$ of males ≥ 5 years old).

Historical Information

Borah DAU is comprised primarily of drainages east of the upper Salmon River and drainages from the Little Lost River east to I-15. Elevations vary from 4,000 feet to 12,000 feet and include high desert communities, mixed conifer forests, and sub-alpine habitats. This DAU receives much less precipitation, and therefore has less forest, than DAUs farther north and west. Borah DAU supports a mountain lion population of low to moderate density that is generally readily accessible during winter. Both deer and elk are common prey species with bighorn sheep and mountain goats locally common. Depredation problems are an uncommon concern in the Borah DAU.

Season Structure

During 1996-1997, the general mountain lion season was extended from 31 January to 15 February in northern GMUs and to 31 March in southern GMUs. During 1999-2000, seasons throughout the DAU were extended to 30 August through 31 March (214 days) because of an apparent continued increase in mountain lion populations, to provide additional opportunity, and to allow archers to harvest mountain lions during standard deer and elk seasons. This season structure remained the same in 2011 (Appendix A). Female quotas were removed in southern GMUs starting fall 2003. There were no quotas or dog-training seasons in northern GMUs within the DAU. In general, dogs may be used when firearm seasons for deer or elk are not open. Neither spotted young nor female mountain lions accompanied by young may be taken.

Harvest Characteristics

The harvest of 19 mountain lions in 2014 slightly exceeded the 3-year running average of 17 (2012-2014), and well exceeded the minimum 3-year average harvest objective of 7 mountain lions.

During the 2014 season, 17 of 19 mountain lions harvested in the Borah DAU were taken with assistance of hounds; the remainder was incidental.

The harvest of 19 mountain lions in 2015 was again slightly above the 3-year running average of 18 (2013-2015), and well above the minimum harvest objective for the DAU. The 3-year average harvest has increased steadily since 2011, when it averaged 11 mountain lions.

During the 2015 season, 14 of 19 mountain lions harvested in the Borah DAU were taken with assistance of hounds; the remainder was incidental or through other methods.

During 2014, 7 of 19 (37%) mountain lions harvested were females. In 2015, 6 of 19 (32%) harvested mountain lions were female. Over the longer term, the 3-year running average of the female component of harvest appears to be somewhat stable, ranging from 35- 46% (37% in 2015) over the previous 5 seasons (2011-2015).

Age structure for mountain lions harvested in 2015 is indeterminate, pending results from cementum annuli data from teeth submitted for analysis. The most recent available data (through 2014) indicated the majority of mountain lions harvested were adults (69% ≥ 3 years old). Sex and age structure of harvested mountain lions has fluctuated through this timeframe. The 3-year average of adult females (≥ 3) declined from the most recent high of 30% in 2009 to 15% in 2013, while the juvenile female component increased from 6% (2007-09) to 28% (2011-13).

Depredations

There were no mountain lion depredations in the Borah DAU during this reporting period.

Management Implications

Annual mountain lion harvest in the Borah DAU increased gradually through the 1970s to 1990s and subsequently declined through 2009, but has increased over the last 5 seasons and is currently above minimum harvest objectives. Sex composition of harvested animals in the DAU suggests that harvest rate may be high. The 3-year running average of females in the harvest has exceeded the goal of $\leq 40\%$ for 5 of the past 8 years. Monitoring trends in harvest rate and sex-age composition is a high priority.

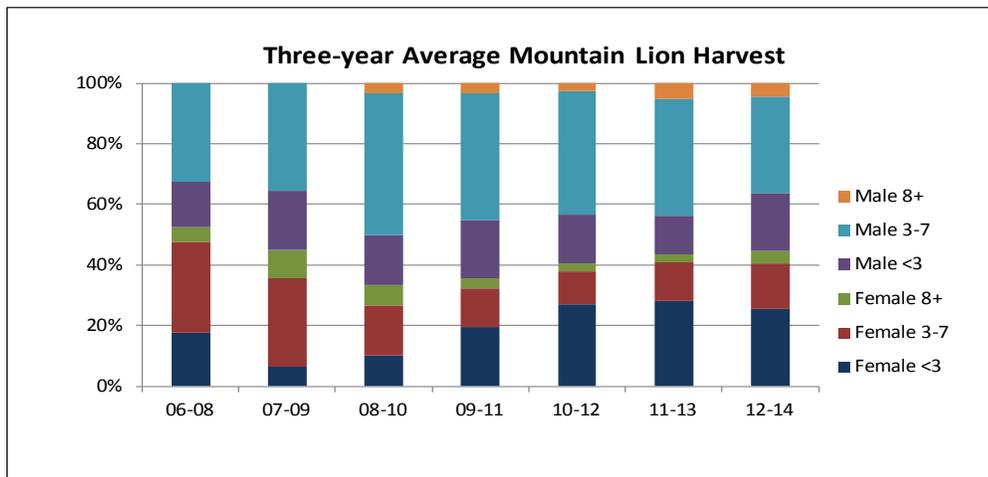
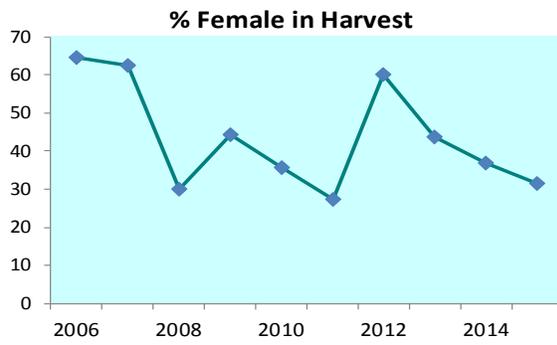
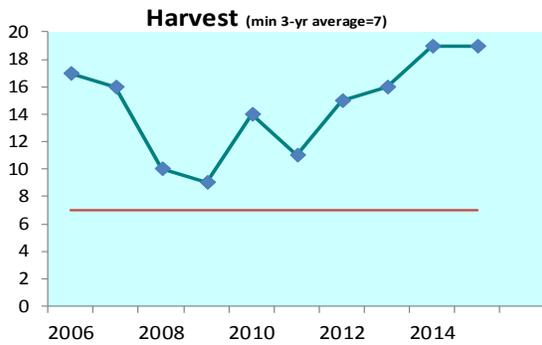


Borah Zone DAU
(GMUs 29, 30, 30A, 37, 37A, 51, 58, 59, 59A)
4,786 Sq Miles

2015 Season		
Criterion	Goal	Current Status
Min 3-yr average harvest	7	18
Harvest per 100 mi ²		0.4
% males ≥3 yrs (3 yr avg)	TBD	69%

Harvest Statistics		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total		17	16	10	9	14	11	15	16	19	19
Males	0-2 years	1	4	1	1	3	2	1	2	6	0
	3-7 years	5	2	6	3	5	5	5	5	5	0
	8+ years	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	13
	Subtotal	6	6	7	5	9	8	6	9	12	13
Females	0-2 years	6	1	0	1	2	3	5	3	4	0
	3-7 years	5	6	1	2	2	0	2	3	2	0
	8+ years	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
	Unknown	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	6
	Subtotal	11	10	3	4	5	3	9	7	7	6

Note: Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged



Note: Harvest does not include unknown aged lions. Lions in harvest year 2015 have yet to be aged.

Figure 21 Borah DAU status and objectives

Big Game

2014 Seasons and Rules

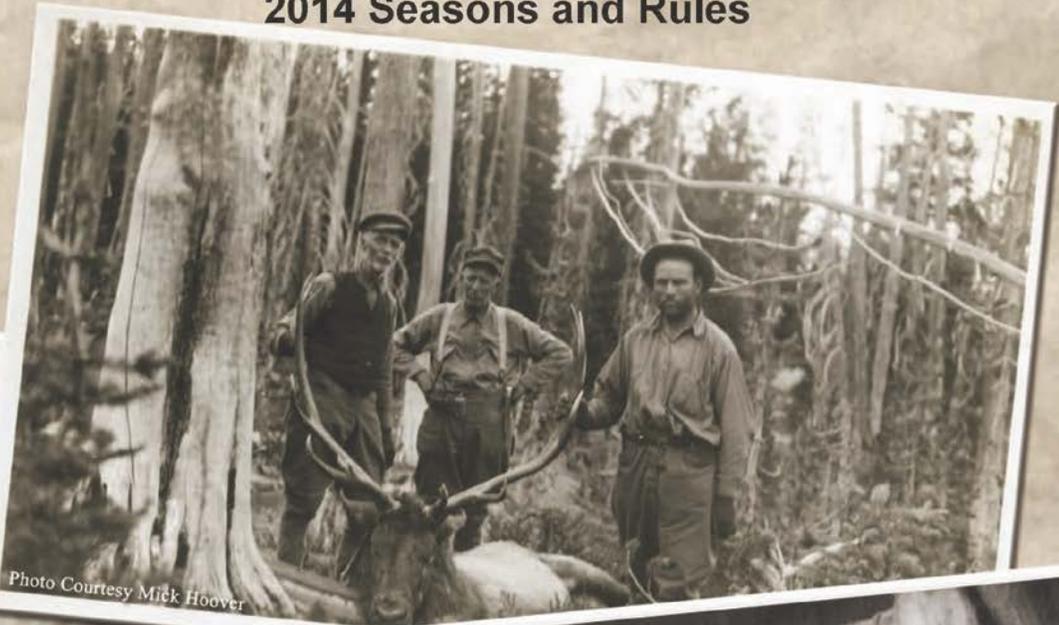


Photo Courtesy Mick Hoover



Photo Courtesy Mick Hoover



Photo Courtesy Alton Howell



2014-2015 Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons

General Rules

Kittens, Female With Young: Neither spotted mountain lion young nor female mountain lions accompanied by spotted young may be taken.

Evidence of Sex must be left attached to the hide of any mountain lion taken. For mountain lions, external evidence of sex (either scrotum, penis, or testicles for males, or vulva for females) must be left naturally attached to the hide until the mandatory check requirement has been satisfied.

Bag Limit: No person may take more than one mountain lion per legal tag in his or her possession.

Mandatory Check and Report: Any hunter killing a mountain lion must, *within 10 days of the date of kill (Note: where there is a female quota, hunters must report within 5 days):*

- Present the skull and hide to an Idaho Fish and Game conservation officer, regional office or other official checkpoint for removal and retention of a premolar tooth and to have the hide tagged with an official state export tag. No person, who does not possess a fur buyer or taxidermist license with appropriate import documentation, shall have, except during the open season and for 5 days after the close of the season, any raw mountain lion pelt that does not have an official state export tag attached (either Idaho's or another state's official export documentation).
- A hunter may authorize another person to comply with the above requirements if that person possesses enough information to accurately complete the necessary form. Proxy required, see page 102.
- **Please thaw your mountain lion hide and skull before bringing it in for tagging or staff members may not be able to check a frozen hide or skull.**

Fish and Game's headquarters office is not equipped to check mountain lions. In the Boise area, these animals can be checked Monday through Friday, at the Fish and Game regional office in Nampa (3101 S. Powerline Rd, 208-465-8465) between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or by appointment at the Garden City facility, 109 W. 44th St., 208-327-7095.

Capturing Mountain Lions: No person may trap, snare or otherwise capture or hold any mountain lion.

Big Game Feeding Sites: It is unlawful to hunt or pursue mountain lions within one-half mile of any active Fish and Game big game feeding site.

Female Mountain Lion Quota

To find out whether the quota on female mountain lions has been met and the season has been closed in a particular

management unit, call 1-800-323-4334. For more specific information about the number of female lions harvested and reported for each management unit, call a Fish and Game regional office or the headquarters office in Boise. See page 10, or <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>.

Hound Hunting

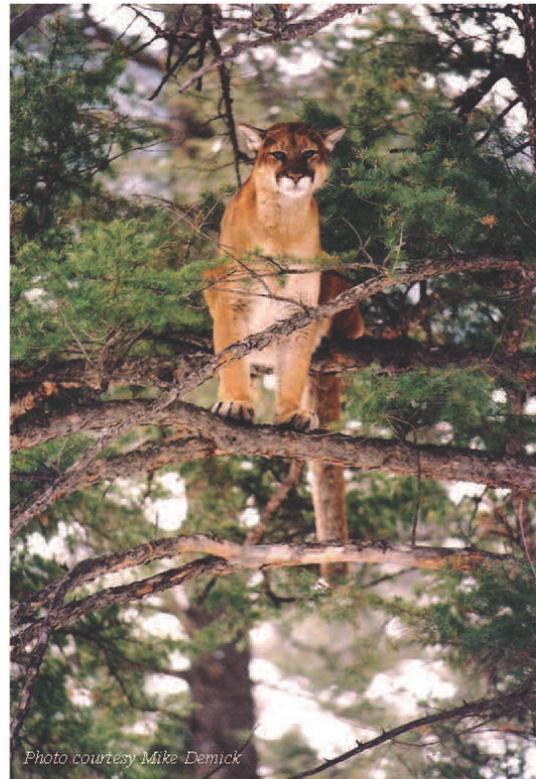
Please see the section on hound hunting rules on page 101.

Special Tags

Second tags: Second tags for mountain lions may be used only in Units 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16A, 17, 19, 20, 20A, 26, 27 and that portion of Unit 16 north of the Selway River. Nonresident mountain lion tags used in these units are available for \$31.75.

Nonresident Deer or Elk tags: A nonresident deer or elk tag, excluding nonresident junior mentored deer and elk tags, may be used to tag a black bear, mountain lion or gray wolf, see page 112 for details.

Nonresident Reduced Mountain Lion Tags: Please see page 112.



 Winter 2014 - 2015 Mountain Lion Seasons				
Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Female Quota	Notes
1	Aug 30 - Feb 16	Aug 30 - Dec 13		<i>Dog training season open Feb 17 - Mar 31</i>
2, 3, 4, 4A, 5	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Dec 13		
6	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Dec 1		<i>Second lion tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used</i>
7, 9	Aug 30 - June 30	Oct 10 - Dec 1		<i>Second lion tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used,</i>
8	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Dec 1		
8A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Dec 1		
10, 12	Aug 30 - June 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31		<i>Second lion tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used</i>
10A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Dec 1		
11, 11A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Dec 1		
14, 15, 18	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Nov 20		
13	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Nov 3		
16	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Nov 20		<i>Second lion tag may be used North of Selway River, Remainder of unit: 1 lion tag</i>
16A, 17 19, 20	Aug 30 - June 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31		<i>Second lion tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used</i>
19A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 24		
20A, 26, 27	Aug 30 - Apr 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31		<i>Second lion tag may be used Electronic calls may be used</i>
21, 21A, 28	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Nov 8		
22	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Aug 30 - Nov 24	6	<i>See note 1, Page 77</i>
23	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 24	8	<i>See note 1, Page 77</i>
24	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 5 - Nov 24	5	<i>See note 1, Page 77</i>
25	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 5 - Nov 24	8	<i>See note 1, Page 77</i>
29, 30, 30A, 37, 37A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 24		<i>See note 3, Page 77, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
31	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Aug 30 - Nov 24	3	<i>See note 1, Page 77</i>
32	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Aug 30 - Nov 24	6	<i>See notes 1 & 3, Page 77, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
32A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Aug 30 - Nov 3 Nov 10 - Nov 24	5	<i>See notes 1 & 3, Page 77, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 103-105</i>
33, 34, 35	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 5 - Nov 8	15	<i>See note 1, Page 77</i>
36	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 5 - Nov 8		
36A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 24	2	<i>See notes 1 & 3, Page 77, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies</i>
36B	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Nov 8	2	<i>See note 1, Page 77</i>
38	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 5 - Nov 30		

 Winter 2014 - 2015 Mountain Lion Seasons - Continued				
Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Female Quota	Notes
39	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 5 - Nov 9	10	See note 1, Page 77
40	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 5 - Nov 24	10	See note 1, Page 77
41, 42	Aug 30 - June 30	Oct 5 - Nov 24		Electronic calls may be used
43, 44, 48, 49	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 30	6	See notes 2 & 3, Page 77, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 49, See Pages 103-105
45, 50, 51, 52, 52A, 53, 58, 59, 59A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 30		See note 3, Page 77, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 45, 50, 51, 52, 53, 58, 59 & 59A, See Pages 103-105
46, 47	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 30	6	See notes 2 & 3, Page 77, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 47, See Pages 103-105
54	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 30	6	See note 2, Page 77
55	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 30	6	See note 2, Page 77
56, 57, 60, 60A, 61, 62, 62A, 63, 63A, 64, 65, 66, 67, 69	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 30		See note 3, Page 77, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 56, 66, & 69, See Pages 103-105
66A, 68, 68A, 70, 71, 72, 73, 73A, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 30	22	See notes 2 & 3, Page 77, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 66A, 70, 72, 73, 75, 76, 77 & 78, See Pages 103-105

MOUNTAIN LION

Notes:

1. The take season in this/these unit(s) will remain open for either sex until the female quota is reached or the take season ends. After the female quota has been reached, the take season in this/these unit(s) will remain open for males only.
2. The take season in this/these unit(s) will remain open until the female quota is reached, or the take season ends, whichever comes first. For these units, a dog training season opens upon the closure of the unit to harvest where a harvest quota is met. If opened, the training season in any of these units shall close March 31.
3. Motorized vehicle use as an aid to hunting for mountain lion is restricted **August 30 through December 31** to established roadways open to motorized vehicle traffic capable of travel by full-sized automobiles - any motorized vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 1,500 pounds. See Pages 103-105.



In Idaho you will find...

- ◆ Over-the-counter tags for world class big game
- ◆ 30-day general archery elk hunts
- ◆ 70% public lands and access to private lands
- ◆ Discounted licenses and tags for junior mentored hunters
- ◆ **3-day fishing license comes with a nonresident hunting license**
- ◆ Opportunity to buy an extra deer and elk tag if quotas haven't been reached by August 1

Want more information?
Call one of our seven regional offices or go online: fishandgame.idaho.gov

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>

2015 & 2016 BIG GAME Seasons & Rules



Controlled Hunt Application Periods

Deer, Elk, Pronghorn & Fall Black Bear: May 1 – June 5

Spring Black Bear: January 15 – February 15

Deer, Elk, Pronghorn Seasons: August 2015 - February 2016 & August 2016 - February 2017

Black Bear, Mountain Lion Seasons: August 2015 - June 2016 & August 2016 - June 2017

Gray Wolf Seasons: July 2015 - June 2016 & July 2016 - June 2017

Including Controlled Hunts for Deer, Elk, Pronghorn and Black Bear



First Edition, 2015



2015-2016 & 2016-2017 Mountain Lion Hunting Seasons

General Rules

Kittens, Female With Young: Neither spotted mountain lion young nor female mountain lions accompanied by spotted young may be taken.

Evidence of Sex must be left attached to the hide of any mountain lion taken. For mountain lions, external evidence of sex (either scrotum, penis, or testicles for males, or vulva for females) must be left naturally attached to the hide until the mandatory check requirement has been satisfied.

Bag Limit: No person may take more than one mountain lion per legal tag in his or her possession.

Mandatory Check and Report: Any hunter killing a mountain lion must, *within 10 days of the date of kill (Note: where there is a female quota, hunters must report within 5 days):*

- Present the skull and hide to an Idaho Fish and Game conservation officer, regional office or other official checkpoint for removal and retention of a premolar tooth and to have the hide tagged with an official state export tag. No person, who does not possess a fur buyer or taxidermist license with appropriate import documentation, shall have, except during the open season and for 5 days after the close of the season, any raw mountain lion pelt that does not have an official state export tag attached (either Idaho's or another state's official export documentation).
- A hunter may authorize another person to comply with the above requirements if that person possesses enough information to accurately complete the necessary form. Proxy statement required, see page 100.
- **Please thaw your mountain lion hide and skull before bringing it in for tagging or staff members may not be able to check a frozen hide or skull.**

Fish and Game's headquarters office is not equipped to check mountain lions. In the Boise area, these animals can be checked Monday through Friday, at the Fish and Game regional office in Nampa, 3101 S. Powerline Rd, 208-465-8465, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.; or by appointment at the Garden City facility, 109 W. 44th St., 208-327-7095.

Capturing Mountain Lions: No person may trap, snare or otherwise capture or hold any mountain lion.

Big Game Feeding Sites: It is unlawful to hunt or pursue mountain lions within one-half mile of any active Fish and Game big game feeding site.

Female Mountain Lion Quota

To find out whether the quota on female mountain lions has been met and the season has been closed in a particular management unit, call 1-800-323-4334. For more information about the number of female lions harvested and reported for each management unit with a quota, visit <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov> or call a Fish and Game office.

Hound Hunting

Please see the section on hound hunting rules on page 99.

Discounted Nonresident Tags

Nonresidents may purchase two (2) reduced-price mountain lion tags for Units 4, 4A, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16A, 17, 19, 20, 20A, 26, 27, that portion of Unit 16 north of the Selway River, and those portions of Units 21 and 28 within designated wilderness at the discounted price of \$41.75; or may purchase one (1) full priced mountain lion tag (\$186.00) to hunt mountain lion anywhere outside the areas listed above and one (1) reduced priced mountain lion tag valid in areas listed above.

Nonresident Deer or Elk tags: A nonresident deer or elk tag, **excluding** Nonresident Junior Mentored/DAV deer and elk tags, may be used to tag a black bear, mountain lion or gray wolf. See page 110 for details.



Photo courtesy J. Caywood

Winter 2015 - 2016 & 2016 - 2017 Mountain Lion Seasons				
Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Female Quota	Notes
1	Aug 30 - Feb 16	Aug 30 - Dec 1 <i>Except</i> Priest River drainage: Dogs Prohibited Aug 30 - Dec 13		<i>Dog training season open Feb 17 - Mar 31</i>
2, 3, 5	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Dec 1		
4, 4A, 6	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Dec 1		<i>Second lion tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used</i>
7, 9	Aug 30 - June 30	Oct 10 - Dec 1		<i>Second lion tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used,</i>
8	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Dec 1		
8A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Dec 1		
10, 12	Aug 30 - June 30	Oct 10 - Oct 31		<i>Second lion tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used</i>
10A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Aug 30 - Sep 14 Oct 10 - Dec 1		
11, 11A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Dec 1		
14, 15, 18	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Nov 20		
13	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Nov 3		
16	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Nov 20		<i>Second lion tag may be used North of Selway River, Remainder of unit: 1 lion tag</i>
16A, 17 19, 20	Aug 30 - June 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31		<i>Second lion tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used</i>
19A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 24		
20A, 26	Aug 30 - Apr 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31		<i>Second lion tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used</i>
21A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Nov 8		
21, 28	Aug 30 - June 30	Oct 10 - Nov 8		<i>Second lion tag may be used and electronic calls may be used in those portions of Units 21 and 28 within designated wilderness only. Remainder of units: 1 lion tag</i>
22	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Aug 30 - Nov 24	6	<i>See note 1, Page 74</i>
23	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 24	8	<i>See note 1, Page 74</i>
24	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 5 - Nov 24	5	<i>See note 1, Page 74</i>
25	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 5 - Nov 24	8	<i>See note 1, Page 74</i>
27	Aug 30 - June 30	Sep 15 - Oct 31		<i>Second lion tag may be used, Electronic calls may be used</i>
29, 30, 30A, 37, 37A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 24		<i>See note 3, Page 74, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>
31	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Aug 30 - Nov 24	3	<i>See note 1, Page 74</i>
32	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Aug 30 - Nov 24	6	<i>See notes 1 & 3, Page 74, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103</i>

Winter 2015 - 2016 & 2016 - 2017 Mountain Lion Seasons				
Units	Take Season	Dogs Prohibited	Female Quota	Notes
32A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Aug 30 - Nov 3 Nov 10 - Nov 24	5	See notes 1 & 3, Page 74, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103
33, 34, 35	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 5 - Nov 8	15	See note 1, Page 74
36	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 5 - Nov 8		
36A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 24	2	See notes 1 & 3, Page 74, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies, See Pages 101 - 103
36B	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 10 - Nov 8	2	See note 1, Page 74
38	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 5 - Nov 30		
39	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 5 - Nov 9	10	See note 1, Page 74
40	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 5 - Nov 24	10	See note 1, Page 74
41, 42	Aug 30 - June 30	Oct 5 - Nov 24		Electronic calls may be used
43, 44, 48, 49	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 30	6	See notes 2 & 3, Page 74, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 49, See Pages 101 - 103
45, 50, 51, 52, 52A, 53, 58, 59, 59A	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 30		See note 3, Page 74, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 45, 50, 51, 52, 53, 58, 59 & 59A, See Pages 101 - 103
46, 47	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 30	6	See notes 2 & 3, Page 74, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Unit 47, See Pages 101 - 103
54	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 30	6	See note 2, Page 74
55	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 30	6	See note 2, Page 74
56, 57, 60, 60A, 61, 62, 62A, 63, 63A, 64, 65, 66, 67, 69	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 30		See note 3, Page 74, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 56, 66, & 69, See Pages 101 - 103
66A, 68, 68A, 70, 71, 72, 73, 73A, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78	Aug 30 - Mar 31	Oct 1 - Nov 30	22	See notes 2 & 3, Page 74, Motorized Hunting Rule Applies in Units 66A, 70, 72, 73, 75, 76, 77 & 78, See Pages 101 - 103

Notes:

1. The take season in this/these unit(s) will remain open for either sex until the female quota is reached or the take season ends. After the female quota has been reached, the take season in this/these unit(s) will remain open for males only.
2. The take season in this/these unit(s) will remain open until the female quota is reached, or the take season ends, whichever comes first. For these units, a dog training season opens upon the closure of the unit to harvest where a harvest quota is met. If opened, the training season in any of these units shall close March 31.
3. Motorized vehicle use as an aid to hunting for mountain lion is restricted **August 30 through December 31** to established roadways open to motorized vehicle traffic capable of travel by full-sized automobiles - any motorized vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of 1,500 pounds. See pages 101 - 103.

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