

APPENDIX I. History of mountain lion management regulations in Wyoming.

As in other western states, management in Wyoming became increasingly conservative during the mid 1970s through the early 1990s, primarily to control the number and sex of lions harvested. Emphasis was placed on controlling the take of females until sufficient information was available to warrant increased harvest. Harvest quotas have been increased since that time in an effort to limit population increase in specific portions of the state.

From territorial days to 1973, mountain lions received no legal protection. The earliest statutory reference to mountain lions was in 1882 when the Council and House of Representatives of the Territory of Wyoming enacted Chapter 108, Section 1. This legislation authorized county commissioners to encourage the destruction of wolves (*Canis lupus*), wild cats (i.e., bobcats; *Lynx rufus*), lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), bears (*Ursus* spp.), and mountain lions by offering bounty payments. Although property owners, employees, and lessees are still allowed to kill any mountain lion causing damage to private property, bounty payments are no longer authorized. In 1973, the mountain lion was reclassified from a predator to a trophy game animal. Since then, regulations governing the take of mountain lions have become more restrictive with the establishment of shorter seasons, total mortality quotas, and female sub-quotas.

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF MOUNTAIN LION MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS IN WYOMING

- 1882 The Wyoming Territorial Legislature passed a law authorizing County Commissioners to encourage the destruction of wolves, bobcats, lynx, bears, and mountain lions. The County Fund paid \$2.50 for each mountain lion killed. This was the first law authorizing bounty payments for mountain lions.

- 1884 The bounty payment for mountain lions was raised to \$5.00.

- 1890 The bounty payment was raised to \$6.00. The Territorial Legislature passed a law prohibiting the killing of mountain lions outside of the Wyoming Territory. Violation of the law resulted in a penalty ranging from \$25.00 to \$50.00.

- 1907 Applications for bounty payments had to be accompanied by an affidavit stating that the person presenting the skin, in said county, and within Wyoming, killed the animal. The animal had to be taken after March 1st. Persons could take predators (mountain lions) within State Game Preserves with the permission of the State Game Warden.

- 1910-1911 It was unlawful to enter the forest reserves of Wyoming for the purpose of chasing or coursing predators with dogs, unless the dogs were licensed. The license was \$1.00 per dog, per calendar year. It was permissible to take mountain lions during closed big game seasons on State Game Preserves with a permit from the State Game Warden.

- 1913-1914 It was lawful to use dogs on predatory species and on State Game Preserves with permit from State Game Warden.

- 1915-1916 Game animals could not be used as bait for the purpose of trapping predatory animals within Wyoming.
- 1917-1972 No changes in mountain lion regulations.
- 1973 The mountain lion was reclassified from a predator to a trophy game animal.
- 1974 The first mountain lion hunting season established. The hunt area was considered the entire state. The season ran for the entire calendar year, with a bag limit of 1 mountain lion per season. A license and fee was required, and hunters had to present the pelt and skull to the nearest Wyoming Game and Fish District Office within 10 days of harvest. Hunting with dogs was allowed and females with kittens at side and kittens were protected from harvest. The owner, employees, or lessee of said property could take mountain lions damaging private property.
- 1978 Mountain lion season ran from September 1—December 31 and January 1—March 31.
- 1980 Wyoming was divided into 22 hunt areas and 5 LMUs. Mortality quotas (total mountain lions) by hunt area were established. The season ran from September 1 - March 31.
- 1983 Hunt area 15 was divided into hunt areas 15 and 23.
- 1985 Hunters must report mountain lion kills within 72 hours to nearest Wyoming Game and Fish District Office or game warden.
- 1993 The pelt and skull were required to be presented in an unfrozen condition to allow extraction of two premolar teeth for aging, and to allow examination of the pelt to determine sex. Female mortality quotas established in some hunt areas.
- 1994 Hunt area boundaries revised to more closely correspond with known distribution. A total of 27 hunt areas existed.
- 1999 Hunt area 26 was eliminated from the Southeast LMU. Hunt area 6 was expanded in its place. Regulations revised to allow for the take of 2 mountain lions per person per year in hunt areas 7 and 21 to assist the Snowy Range mountain lion study. Hunters must purchase an additional license (\$15 for resident and \$75 for non-resident). Hunt Area 25 added to the southeast LMU.
- 2000 Hunt area 17 split with hunt area 26 being created in the West LMU to separate the Wyoming Range from the Salt River Range in the Jackson Region. Hunt area 27 added to the areas where two mountain lions can be taken in a calendar year. Biological year for analysis of harvest information changed to September 1—August 31. Hunt area 28 created to address potential harvest and damage on fee title lands within the Wind River Reservation. Hunt area 7 was eliminated from those where 2 mountain lions can be harvested annually.

- 2001 Hunt area 21 eliminated from those where 2 mountain lions can be harvested annually.
- 2003 Hunt area 2 in the Jackson region split to address hunter pressure issues. Hunt area 29 established in the southern portion of hunt area 2. Quotas set for three-year cycle to address data assessment issues.