

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
HUNTING SEASON / QUOTA CHANGE SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Species: Mountain Lion

Region: 3

Hunting District: 322/326/330 and 323/324/325/327

Year: 2020

- 1. Describe the proposed season / quota changes and provide a summary of prior history (i.e., prior history of permits, season types, etc.)**

Lion Management Unit 322/326/330 - Decrease the quota from 7 to 6 any legal mountain lion. Leave the female sub-quota at 2.

Lion Management Unit 323/324/325/327 - Decrease the quota from 7 to 6 any legal mountain lion. Leave the female sub-quota at 2.

Table 1. Lion Management Unit 323/324/325/327 lion quotas and harvest, 1995–2019.

HUNT YEAR	FEMALE QUOTA	FEMALE TAKEN	MALE QUOTA	MALES TAKEN	QUOTA TOTAL	TOTAL HARVEST	SEASON CLOSED
1995	2	1		2	3	3	12/30/95
1996	2	1		2	3	3	2/5/97
1997	3	3		2	6	5	2/15/98
1998	3	3		3	6	6	1/13/99
1999	3	2		3	6	5	
2000	3	2		3	6	5	
2001	3	2		2	6	4	12/31/01
2002	3	2		4	6	6	1/7/2003
2003	3	3		1	6	4	4/14/2004
2004	3	2		4	6	6	2/9/2005
2005	1	1		4	6	5	4/14/2006
2006	1	0		4	4	4	1/10/2007
2007	1	1		2	4	3	4/14/2008
2008	1	2		2	4	4	1/25/2009
2009	1	1		3	4	4	1/11/2010
2010	1	0		1	4	1	4/14/2011
2011	1	1		2	4	3	4/14/2012
2012	2	0		4	4	4	12/27/2012
2013	2	2		2	4	4	1/3/2014
2014	2	1		2	6	3	4/14/2015
2015	2	2		2	6	4	4/14/2016
2016	2	2		3	6	5	4/14/2017
2017	2	2		4	6	6	12/30/2017
2018	2	2		5	7	7	1/8/2018
2019	2	2		5	7	7	2/7/2020

Table 2. Lion Management Unit 322/326/330 lion quotas and harvest, 1995–2019.

HUNT YEAR	FEMALE QUOTA	FEMALE TAKEN	MALE QUOTA	MALES TAKEN	QUOTA TOTAL	TOTAL HARVEST	SEASON CLOSED
1995	2			3	3	3	1/6/96
1996	2			3	3	3	1/7/97
1997	3	1		4	6	5	12/17/97
1998	3	2		4	6	6	12/14/98
1999	3	2		5	6	7	1/14/00
2000	3	1		4	6	5	
2001	3	4		3	6	7	12/31/01
2002	3	2		4	6	6	1/26/2003
2003	2	2		1	6	3	4/14/2004
2004	2	1		1	6	2	4/14/2005
2005	1	1		2	2	3	12/16/2005
2006	1	1		1	2	2	12/6/2006
2007	0	1		1	2	2	12/28/2007
2008	0	0		2	2	2	2/1/2009
2009	0	0		2	2	2	2/6/2010
2010	0	0		2	2	2	1/3/2011
2011	0	0		4	2	4	12/24/2011
2012	2	0		4	4	4	1/30/2013
2013	2	2		2	4	4	12/28/2013
2014	2	1		3	6	4	4/14/2015
2015	2	1		5	6	6	1/26/2016
2016	2	2		2	6	4	4/14/2017
2017	2	2		4	6	6	12/19/2017
2018	2	2		5	7	7	1/29/2019
2019	2	2		4	7	6	

2. Why is the proposed change necessary?

The proposed change is needed to better align hunter-harvest with a decreasing population and reduce harvest of young male lions.

3. What is the current population’s status in relation to the management objectives? (i.e., state management objectives from management plan if applicable; provide current and prior years of population survey, harvest, or other pertinent information).

Reports from most area houndsmen is that the mountain lion population has trended down over the past couple of years and older male lions have become harder to find. The number of lions and tracks encountered by hunters that reported harvesting a lion supports the reports of a decreased population. Age structure of harvested male lions through the 2018-19 season shows an increased proportion of males that are 1-2 years old is being harvested.

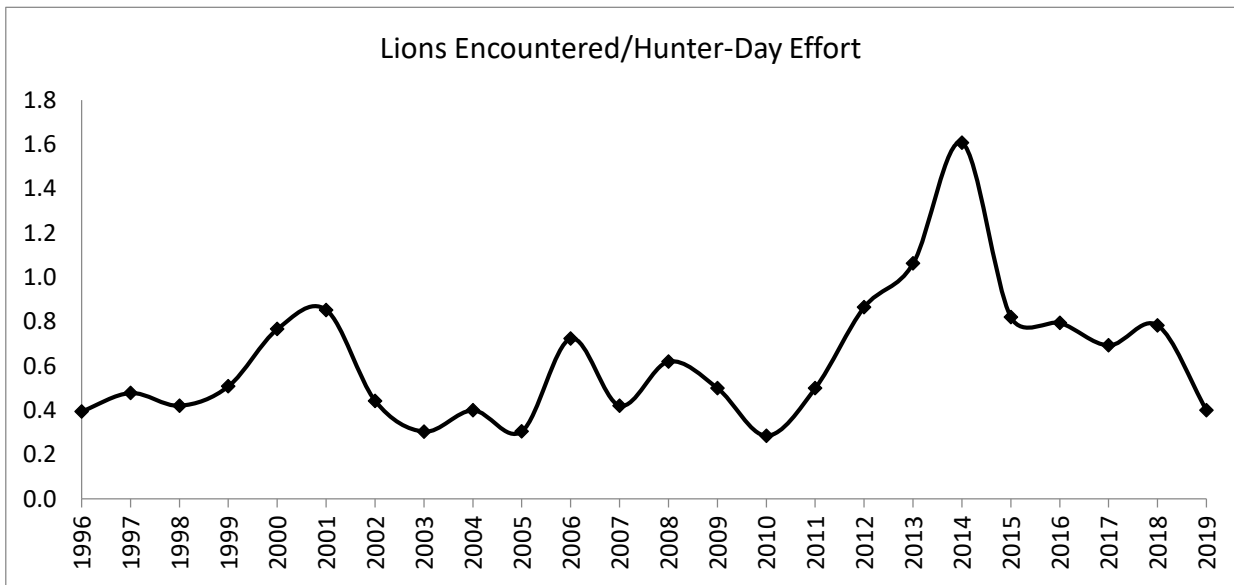


Figure 1. The number of mountain lions encountered per day afield by hunters that harvested a mountain lion within the Sheridan wildlife biologist management area.

4. Provide information related to any weather/habitat factors that have relevance his change (i.e., habitat security, hunter access, vegetation surveys, weather index, snow conditions, and temperature / precipitation information).

None.

5. Briefly describe the contacts you have made with individual sportsmen or landowners, public groups or organizations regarding this proposal and indicate their comments (both pro and con).

Feedback regarding mountain lion harvest quotas was solicited through the Sheridan area wildlife biologist’s email distribution list. This list includes 161 sportsmen, non-sportsmen, private property owners, livestock producers, sportsmen groups, local politicians, and are Game Wardens. The proposal was discussed at the Houndsmen’s Association’s annual meeting in Three forks on March 5. Five houndsmen expressed support for the proposal. One houndsmen/outfitter recommended increasing the female sub-quota in Lion Management Unit 323/324/325/327 from 2 to 3.

Submitted by: Dean J. Waltee
Date: 20 March 2020

Approved: _____
Regional Supervisor / Date

Disapproved / Modified by: _____
Name / Date

Reason for Modification: