

**Amendment to 2022 Mountain Lion Quotas and Special Licenses  
Submitted by Commissioner Byorth at request of FWP**

*I move that the 2022 mountain lion season quota master list proposed by the department be amended to increase the lion quota from 6 to 8 mountain lions in LMU 339.*

LMU	Number of Special Licenses	Overall Quota	Male Sub-Quota	Female Sub-Quota
339	1	8		2

**RATIONALE:**

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

**Species: Mountain Lion**

**Region: 3**

**Hunting District: LMU 339**

**Year: 2022-2023**

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

The total quota for LMU 339 (formerly LMU 339/343/388) was unintentionally reduced during the spring 2022 season-setting process from 8 to 6. This proposed change would restore the total quota to 8, as it had been since the 2014 season, retain a female sub-quota of 2 (as proposed spring 2022) and retain 1 special/limited lion license (as proposed spring 2022).

**2. Why is the proposed change necessary?**

This is necessary to maintain the quota as it was intended to be for the upcoming season.

**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).**

Mountain lions are well established in LMU 339. Within this past year and in other recent years, lions were within the City of Helena and in suburban and exurban areas surrounding the City. Additionally, lions were removed from this LMU by Wildlife Services on a recurring basis. Access is more difficult compared to surrounding LMUs: requiring snowshoeing in some areas and permission limited in others. Hence, since 2014 the LMU frequently remained open for the season length (Table 1; Figure 1). Given conflicts, the quota might otherwise be increased.

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


Road access is limited, and hunters may need to snowshoe to successfully pursue lions.

**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).**

No public feedback was solicited because this change is proposed to correct an unintentional reduction in the quota.

**Submitted by: Jenny Sika**

**Date: 05/12/2022**

**Approved:**  \_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Supervisor/Date

**Disapproved/Modified by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/Date

**Reason for Modification:**

Table 1. Annual, legal mountain lion harvest by age and sex class, female, male, and total quotas, and season closing dates in LMU 339 (formerly 339/343/388 2012-2021 and 335/339/343/388  $\geq$ 2011), Lewis and Clark County, Montana, 1990-2022. *Note: **bold underlined text** indicates female, male, and/or total quota overrun.*

LMU D/E DISTRICTS	HUNT YEAR	FEMALE QUOTA	FEMALE HARVEST	MALE QUOTA	MALE HARVEST	TOTAL QUOTA	TOTAL HARVEST	FEMALE CLOSED	MALE CLOSED	SEASON CLOSED
335/339/343	1995	4	<b><u>5</u></b>		3	8	8	1/5/96		1/8/96
	1996	6	4	4	4	10	8		12/25/96	
	1997	6	4	4	<b><u>5</u></b>	10	9		1/7/98	
	1998	6	5	4	<b><u>5</u></b>	10	10		12/11/98	12/29/98
	1999	6	6	4	4	10	10		1/5/00	3/10/00
	2000	6	5	4	0	10	5			
	2001	4	3		2	8	5			
	2002	5	4		2	8	6			4/1/2003
	2003	3	1		5	7	6			
	2004	3	1		6	7	7			3/22/2005
	2005	3	3		4	7	7			1/31/2006
HD 388 Added	2006	1	<b><u>2</u></b>		3	5	5	2/24/2006		2/27/2007
	2007	0	0		5	4	<b><u>5</u></b>			1/8/2008
	2008	0	0		4	4	4			12/19/2008
	2009	0	0		5	4	<b><u>5</u></b>			1/3/2010
	2010	0	0		5	4	<b><u>5</u></b>			12/23/2010
	2011	0	0		5	4	<b><u>5</u></b>			12/11/2011
HD 335 removed	2012	1	1		5	6	6	12/24/2012		12/27/2012
	2013	1	1		5	6	6	12/9/2013		12/18/2013
	2014	2	2		3	8	5	12/15/2014		
	2015	2	<b><u>4</u></b>		6	8	<b><u>10</u></b>	12/15/2015		12/17/2015
	2016	2	2		4	8	6	12/30/2016		
	2017	2	2		5	8	7	1/5/2018		
	2018	2	1		6	8	7	1/21/2019		
	2019	2	2		4	8	6	1/16/2020		
	2020	2	2		2	8	5	1/10/2021		
LMU Renamed 339	2021	2	2		5	8	7	12/27/2021		

Figure 1. Annual, legal mountain lion harvest by date in LMU 339 (formerly 339/343/388 2012-2021 and 335/339/343/388  $\geq 2011$ ) during winter season only, Lewis and Clark County, Montana, 1990-2022. *Note: harvest during fall archery and rifle seasons is not shown.*

