



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: June 23, 2022

Agenda Item: 2022 Mountain Lion Quotas and Special Limited Licenses

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 Minutes

Background: Mountain lion harvest quotas and permit numbers are based on commission direction, recommendations from the Northwest Lion Ecoregional Population Objective Committee (LEPOC), research, surveys, harvest and mortality data, and public comment. Fall season structure (archery and season without hounds) are unchanged from last year. Winter seasons allow the use of hounds, but harvest is allocated, in accordance with commission direction, between limited special mountain lion licenses that will be awarded through the lottery draw and unlimited special mountain lion licenses that are governed by quotas or subquotas by sex. The proposed number of limited licenses and quotas are outlined in the attached master list of Proposed Special Mountain Lion Licenses and Quotas. Quotas apply to “any legal lion” unless otherwise noted and as influenced by subquotas.

Public Involvement Process and Results: The department used the Northwest LEPOC to develop a harvest target for Region 1 and northern Region 2. The department developed quotas and licenses to achieve an approximate 12.5% reduction in the mountain lion population over the next five years, with focal areas to reduce predation on ungulate populations (primarily bighorn sheep and mule deer) in portions of the ecoregion. Prior to the June 23 commission meeting, this cover sheet, the LEPOC report, and the Proposed Special Mountain Lion Licenses and Quotas will have been posted on the department website for public review and comment. The public comment we receive will be available for the commission and public to review prior to the June commission meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis: No other alternatives have been considered at this time. The commission may choose to adopt or amend the department proposal.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale: In accordance with the 2019 Mountain Lion Monitoring and Management Strategy, the department is recommending quotas and licenses consistent with the strategy's intent.

Proposed Motion: I move the commission adopt the 2022 Proposed Special Mountain Lion Licenses and Quotas as presented by the department in the attached master list, with all other quotas and licenses of the 2021 season unchanged unless addressed by this proposal.