

Montana Mountain Lion Status Report

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ABSTRACT The total harvest of mountain lion in Montana in 2007 was 309. This represents a slight increase from 2006. Northwest Montana completed its second year of limited entry-only hunting for pumas with female sub-quotas. Approximately 70% of the permits offered in northwest Montana were filled, with the female puma harvest representing 20%. The region is experimenting with incorporating life-history metrics from long-term puma research projects to manage populations. Region 2 based out of Missoula will be implementing limited-entry permit hunting for pumas in 2008. In Montana, when hunting is offered via limited-entry permits, non-residents are limited to 10% of the permits offered via the drawing. In addition to habitat conservation projects, Montana's two issues for the future are how to appropriately apply the results of long-term puma research to set hunting seasons with our Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Commission and to maintain tolerance through the work of conflict specialists and existing staff for this highly prized game animal. Montana is also planning on completing and publishing the Garnet Mountain Puma Research Project and updating the 1996 Puma Management Plan.