



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Director's Office  
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*EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor*  
*CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director*



April 24, 2017

The Honorable Richard Bloom  
California State Assembly, 50<sup>th</sup> District  
State Capitol, Room # 2003  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblymember Bloom:

**RE: Human Wildlife Conflict**

Thank you for your interest in human-wildlife conflict issues. As you know, in recent years, human-wildlife interactions have increased, requiring Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) staff to invest more time, research, and response in the field when interactions do occur. The Department's policies and programs are also evolving in anticipation that such interactions will continue to increase over time.

One example is more than half of California is mountain lion habitat. Mountain lions are solitary and elusive, and their nature is to avoid people. These animals, however, may prey on pets or livestock creating depredation concerns. In some situations, mountain lions present threats to public safety. In addition, the Department notes in its Keep Me Wild program, human and wildlife interaction is often more a people problem, perhaps, than a wildlife problem, as each year California's population continues to grow and expand into wildlife habitat.

After much thought and further review, the Department would like to take some additional time to more thoroughly develop and seek input on a suite of potential administrative options that could potentially address the varying range of human wildlife conflict needs and solutions throughout the state related to depredation concerns. The Department is uniquely situated to collaborate with a full range of constituents on human-wildlife conflict issues. We anticipate needing 60 to 90 days to complete a review of the needs and the possible administrative options.

Again, thank you for your continued interest and support of the Department. We will be in touch upon the conclusion of our review. In the meantime, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. H. Bonham".

Charlton H. Bonham  
Director