

Cougar Population Assessment and Harvest Management Matrix– Summary Perspective (2011-2015), New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Baseline cougar management is set at 25% removal for each zone.

Zone	GMUs	Est. Hab. (km ²) ^a	Pop Est. ^b	Cougar Population Management Objectives ^c	Total Mortality Limit ^d (2011-15)	Female Sub-limit ^e (2011-15)	2009-10 Total Mortality (Female)	2005-2009 avg. sport harvest (Female)	2005-2009 avg. removal (depred., BHS, roadkill, etc.) (Female)	2009-11 Harvest Limit (Female)
A	2, 7	13,728	262-319	Stable	73	22	8 (6)	11 (4)	0	27 (7)
B	5, 50, 51	6,526	180-220	Stable	50	15	9 (3)	11 (4)	0	15 (4)
C	43,45,46, 48, 49, 53	11,482	364-445	Decrease	121	61	19 (10)	16 (8)	2 (0)	32 (8)
D	41, 42, 47, 59	6,468	91-117	Decrease	32	16	11 (2)	5 (1)	1 (0)	13 (3)
E	9, 10	13,674	317-386	Stable	88	26	6 (2)	5 (2)	1 (1)	30 (8)
F	6	6,659	196-240	Decrease	65	33	13 (6)	11 (5)	0	17 (4)
G	13, 17	14,422	313-381	Decrease	104	52	18 (7)	9 (2)	4 (2)	29 (7)
H	19, 20	7,313	100-122	Decrease	33	17	3 (2)	2 (1)	3 (1)	22 (6)
I	18, 36-38	11,703	231-282	Stable	64	19	21 (7)	12 (6)	2 (0)	34 (9)
J	15, 16, 21, 25	22,714	562-686	Stable	156	47	33 (11)	23 (9)	2 (1)	69 (17)
K	22-24	11,299	284-347	Decrease	95	47	14 (2)	14 (5)	1 (0)	38 (10)
L	26, 27	6,456	81-99	Decrease	27	13	6 (3)	2 (1)	3 (1)	13 (3)
M	31-33, 39, 40	21,394	185-224	Stable	51	15	2 (0)	2 (1)	0	35 (9)
N	4, 52	2,801	96-118	Stable	27	8	6 (1)	2 (1)	1 (0)	10 (3)
O	12	6,663	131-159	Stable	36	11	0 (0)	0 (0)	0	6 (2)
P	56-58	2,700	61-75	Stable	17	5	7 (1)	5 (2)	1 (0)	11 (3)
Q	28, 29, 30, 34	11,752	216-263	Stable	60	18	13 (5)	9 (5)	9 (4)	46 (12)
R	54, 55	4,557	165-202	Stable	46	14	7 (2)	13 (4)	0	20 (5)
S	8, 14	4,661	107-131	Decrease	36	18	1 (1)	2 (1)	1 (0)	5 (1)
Totals:		186,972	3,942-4,816		1,181	457	197 (71)	154 (62)	31 (10)	472 (121)

^aThe quantity of the habitat was derived from a model designed by G&F and T. Perry, PhD., the habitat is classed as Excellent, Good, Moderate, and Fair with Excellent having an adult cougar density of 3.78-4.62/100km², Good having an adult cougar density of 1.57-1.91/100km², Moderate having an adult cougar density of 0.76-0.926/100km² and Fair having an adult cougar density of 0.38-0.46/100km². 64% of the state is considered cougar habitat.

^bThe middle of the population estimate range is used for all management objectives and removal/harvest level calculations and may not reflect the true value for the population.

^c Stable = harvest ≤ 25% of total estimated population w/max of 30% female; Decrease = harvest ≤ 30% of total estimated population with ≤ 50% females.

^d Allowable harvest does not exceed allowable sustainable harvest mortality, both harvest limits include 10% brackets below the harvest limit to allow for zone closure before limits have been reached. Total Sustainable Mortality includes all sources of mortality including sport harvest, roadkill, depredation and department actions.

^e Female sub-limits restrict the female harvest to no more than 30% of the total harvest unless the objective is to decrease the population in a given area.

References:

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