

STATUS REPORTS

Table 1. Number of mountain lion reported killed in Colorado, 1916-1965. Modified from Table 1 in Sandfort and Tully (1971).

Years	Div. of Wildlife Services, FWS (a)	Bountied (b)	Licensed Hunters	Av. All Rep. Harvests
1916-1919	35	--	--	11.7
1920-1929	58	15	--	7.3
1930-1939	13	563	--	57.6
1940-1949	34	84(c)	--	11.8
1950-1959	117	503	--	62.0
Totals	257	1165		
1960	6	31	--	37
1961	13	38	--	51
1962	7	34	--	41
1963	12	45	--	57
1964	2	79	--	81
1965	5	64(d)	17(e)	86
Totals	45	291	17	353

(a) Division of Wildlife Services, USF&WS reports based on fiscal year. Data derived from fiscal year reports originating with July 1 for years and periods shown.

(b) Bounties on fiscal year basis.

(c) Data for 1941, 1942, 1943, and part of 1944 incomplete. It is believed the take and bountied numbers were much higher than herein reported.

(d) Bounty law repealed and no bounties paid after June 30, 1965.

(e) Animals taken by holders of mountain lion licenses during the open season extending from October through December 31, 1965.

accompanied by a kitten may be taken. The mountain lion is the only big game species that does not need to be prepared and used for human consumption.

Harvests. Prior to July 1, 1965, the mountain lion was classified as a predator and carried a bounty from 1929 through June 30, 1965. Legislative removal of the bounty and establishment of the mountain lion as a protected big game species, effective July 1, 1965, was followed by Colorado Wildlife Commission annual regulations setting forth bag limits, open areas, season dates and the manner in which the species could be taken by sport hunting. Trapping has not been permitted since 1965, except by Division, USFWS or USDA, Animal, Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) employees in damage control efforts. Minimal numbers of lion killed by federal, State, and private entities from 1916 to 1965 totaled 1,775 (Table 1).

From 1966 to 1987, 4,974 licenses were purchased and a minimum of 1,831 mountain lion were killed by 3,674 sport hunters (Table 2). Percent success during the 1973-1987 period ranged from 28 to 48 percent. A 3-year moving average plot of total harvest and total hunters over time shows a marked increase in both hunters and total harvest from 1973 to 1987 (Figure 2). The upward trend of hunters and harvest, 1973-1980, accelerated in 1980 with the advent of either-sex harvest regulations

Table 2. Mountain lion harvest, hunters, license sales, percent success and recreation days, 1966-1987.

Year	Sportsmen's Harvest (a)			No. Hunters	Success	% Total Licenses (b)	Rec. Days (c)
	Male	Female	Unkn Total				
1966	?	?	--	47	unk	-	121
1967	?	?	-	58	unk	-	102
1968	16	4	30	50	unk	-	30
1969	31	25	-	56	480	-	36
1970	30	17	-	47	unk	-	30
1971	19	10	-	29	unk	-	36
1972	29	6	-	35	unk	-	72
1973	33	27	-	60	115	52	115
1974	27	25	-	52	185	28	185
1975	47	43	-	90	143	63	143
1976	44	21	-	65	152	43	174
1977	44	39	-	83	195	43	225
1978	48	43	--	91	243	37	285
1979	49	25	-	74	209	35	264
1980	41	41	-	82	200	41	280
1981	67	40	-	107	248	43	352
1982	77	60	-	137	327	42	410
1983	69	56	-	125	362	34	453
1984	55	48	-	103	257	40	359
1985	101	54	-	155	363	43	460
1986	61	44	-	105	310	34	386
1987	125	55	180	365	48	456	2627
Totals	1013	683	30	1831	3674	-	4974

(a) Does not include 92 lions taken by Division, USF&WS, or private individuals under damage control. Harvest regulations were: 1965, 1 lion, either sex; 1966, 3 lions, es; 1967-1970, 1 lion es; all within specified Game Management Units (GMU) and seasons except during 1966 which was statewide and year long; 1971-79, males-only or es within specified GMU and seasons; 1980-87, es in all specified GMU and seasons. Harvest data from mandatory check and independent survey.

(b) Percent success is the harvest divided by number of hunters.

(c) During the period 1967 through 1975, the Division issued a Sportsman's License at \$30.00 for a resident and \$135.00 for a nonresident. This permitted fishing, small game hunting and the taking of deer, elk, black bear and mountain lion on one license with several carcass tags. Data for 1973 through 1975 includes both regular mountain lion license and sportsman's license holders who utilized the mountain lion tag.

statewide, increased kill quotas within many GMU, and an increase in the number of GMU's hunted.

From 1971 to 1979, males predominated in the total harvest, when the kill was limited to male mountain lion on some GMU and either-sex on others, and from 1980 to 1987 when an either-sex regulation applied to all GMU. During the latter period, significantly more males (Chi-square = 39.44, $P < 0.001$) were reported. This differs from harvest sex ratios in other states which generally did not differ ($P > 0.05$) from equality (Anderson 1983:58).

Long-Term Management Plans. The past long range or strategic plans of the Division (dated 1974, 1977 and 1983) as well as the draft plan under consideration in 1988 have the same statewide objectives. Those include: