

NMDGF Cougar Management Strategy for Hunting Seasons 2011-2015.

Zone	Game Management Units	Estimated Cougar Habitat 2011 (km ²) ^a	Cougar population Estimate 2011. ^b	Cougar Population Management Objectives 2011-2015 ^c	2011-15 Total Mortality Limit ^d	2011-15 Female Sub-Limit
A	2, 7	13,728	207-285	Manage for increasing cougar populations	42	13
B	5, 50, 51	6,526	142-192		28	8
E	9, 10	13,674	251-341		50	15
I	18, 36-38	11,703	183-251		37	11
J	15, 16, 21, 25	22,714	445-603		89	27
M	31-33, 39, 40	21,394	146-215		31	9
N	4, 52	2,801	76-102		15	5
O	12	6,663	103-141		21	6
P	56-58	2,700	49-66		10	3
Q	28, 29, 30, 34	11,752	170-235		35	11
R	54, 55	4,557	131-175		26	8
C	43,45,46, 48, 49, 53	11,482	289-387		Manage for stable to decreasing cougar populations	85
D	41, 42, 47, 59	6,468	76-106	23		12
F	6	6,659	156-209	46		23
G	13, 17	14,422	247-338	73		37
H	19, 20	7,313	78-111	24		12
K	22-24	11,299	225-305	66		33
L	26, 27	6,456	64-91	19		10
S	8, 14	4,661	85-116	25		13
Totals:		186,972	3,123-4,269		745	299

- Population estimate and resulting mortality limits are derived from median density estimates from current research in New Mexico.
- Recommend potential cougar population decrease dependent on female harvest in 37% of New Mexico’s huntable cougar habitat.
- Recommend increase cougar populations in 63% of New Mexico’s huntable cougar habitat.

^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 3.0-4.0/100km², Good having an adult cougar density of 1.2-1.7/100km², Moderate having an adult cougar density of 0.6-0.9/100km² and Fair having an adult cougar density of 0.4-0.5/100km². Densities were derived from studies conducted in New Mexico. 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 Increase = harvest ≤ 17% of total estimated population w/max of 30% female; Stable to decrease = harvest ≤ 25% 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.