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Fish and Game Commission



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January 23, 2015

Mr. Daniel Alvarez
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol, Room 3044
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ms. Diane Boyer-Vine
Legislative Counsel
State Capitol, Room 3021
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Report Regarding Findings of Necropsies on Mountain Lions Taken Under Depredation Permits 2014

The Fish and Game Commission is pleased to transmit the report entitled Findings of Necropsies on Mountain Lions Taken Under Depredation Permits. Distribution to the Legislature is being made by the Commission pursuant to California Government Code Section 9795. This report can be found at www.fgc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 653-4899.

Sincerely,

Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director

Enclosure(s)

cc: Department of Fish and Wildlife

Charlton Bonham, Director
Dan Yparraguirre, Deputy Director, Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Susan LaGrande, Deputy Director for Legislation
Eric Loft, Chief, Wildlife Branch
Steve Torres, Environmental Program Manager, Wildlife Branch
Marc Kenyon, Mountain Lion Coordinator, Wildlife Branch

**State of California
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**Report to the Fish and Game Commission
Regarding Findings of Necropsies on Mountain Lions
Taken Under Depredation Permits in 2014**

Submitted in compliance with Section 4807 of the Fish and Game Code

Summary

According to Department of Fish and Wildlife depredation submission records (which are as yet incomplete for calendar year 2014), the Department issued at least 216 depredation permits, resulting in at least 89 mountain lions reported being taken. Of those 89 animals, 51 were necropsied. The fate of the remaining 38 lions is not known at this time.

The number of mountain lions killed under the authority of a depredation permit and necropsied in the calendar year 2014 can be summarized in the following statements, and supported in Tables 1-3. During 2014, 63% of depredating mountain lions the Department performed necropsies on were male, and 37% were female (Table 1). Of these lions, 55% were considered adults, on the basis of lions being aged at 24 months or older; 29% were considered sub-adults; 10% were juveniles on the basis of being aged 0-12 months (Table 2). North-Central Region had the highest rate of depredating lions that were necropsied, with 53% of all necropsied lions occurring in this area (Table 3).

The majority of necropsied mountain lion stomach contents contained domestic animals (41%); however, deer and other various contents were observed as well (Figure 1).

Table 1. Count of necropsied mountain lions by sex

Sex	
Male	32
Female	19
Unrecorded	0
Total	51

Table 2. Count of necropsied mountain lions by age class

Age Class	
Juvenile	5
Sub Adult	15
Adult	28
Unrecorded	3
Total	51

Table 3. Count of necropsied mountain lions by Department Region

Region	
Northern	8
North Central	27
Bay Delta	7
Central	7
South Coast	2
Inland Desert	0
Unrecorded	0
Total	51

Figure 1. Stomach content of necropsied depredation mountain lions

