

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

# 2007-08 Mountain Lion Hunting Information



COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE  
6060 Broadway • Denver, CO 80216  
(303) 297-1192 • [www.wildlife.state.co.us](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us)

## MOUNTAIN LION LICENSE FEES

Resident .....\$ 41

Nonresident .....\$251

Costs include a 25-cent search and rescue fee and 75-cent surcharge for the Wildlife Management Public Education Fund.

### LICENSE INFORMATION

1. You must have a lion license and carry it when hunting. You can buy licenses online or by calling, 1-800-244-5613. Credit cards accepted for phone or internet purchases. Licenses also are sold at DOW offices and license agents.
2. **NEW FOR 2007-08:** It is illegal to obtain a mountain lion license or hunt lions without a mountain lion education certificate issued by the DOW, attesting successful completion of the DOW's certified lion education and identification course. Hunters must carry the certificate while hunting lions. Information about the course is available on our website or DOW offices.
3. You must check daily to make sure the unit you want to hunt is open. Units close when harvest limits are reached. Call **1-888-940-LION (5466)** no earlier than 5 p.m. the day before your hunting trip for a recording of closed units. If a unit is closed, you must pick a different unit.
4. A Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp is required of people ages 19-64 who buy hunting or fishing licenses. With a license purchase, the stamp is \$5 and required on each of the first 2 licenses bought in a calendar year (\$10 total). The stamp also allows access to state wildlife areas or state trust lands leased by the DOW. A habitat stamp also is required of people ages 19-64 who visit a state wildlife area or state trust land leased by the DOW, such as non-hunters, wildlife viewers or hikers. This stamp costs \$10.25 (25-cent search and rescue fee). A lifetime stamp is \$200 and satisfies the above requirements.

### LION HUNTING SEASON DATES

The day after the close of the last combined deer and elk rifle season through March 31, except unit 40. Lion season ends in unit 40 on April 30.

### RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

These are the requirements to qualify as a Colorado resident to buy a hunting license:

1. You must have lived continuously in Colorado at least six months immediately before applying for or buying a license, and must intend to make Colorado home (except #2 and 3 below).
2. U.S. armed services personnel and military personnel of U.S. allies on active duty in Colorado under permanent orders and their dependents. This includes people who were Colorado residents when they entered the armed services and maintain Colorado as their home of record, and their dependents (unless they change their home of record to another state). Also included are personnel of the U.S. Diplomatic Service or diplomatic services of nations recognized by the U.S. assigned to duty here on permanent active duty orders and their dependents. Active duty does not include reserve status or National Guard.
3. Full-time students enrolled and attending a Colorado college, university or trade school at least six months immediately before applying for or buying a license. This includes students who are temporarily absent from Colorado but still enrolled. Colorado residents who attend school full time out of state and pay nonresident tuition still qualify for a resident license.
4. Children under 18 have the same residency status as their parent, legal guardian or person with whom they live the majority of the time per court order.

5. If you have a home in Colorado and another state, call (303) 297-1192 to make sure you comply with Colorado residency requirements before obtaining a hunting or fishing license.

6. Except as in #2 and 3 above, your Colorado residency ends if you apply for, buy or accept hunting, fishing or trapping license as a resident of another state or country; register to vote outside Colorado; or get a driver's license with an address in another state.

### **MINIMUM AGE TO HUNT LIONS**

You must be at least 12 to hunt big game. Eleven year olds can buy a license if they turn 12 before the end of the hunting season. However, the license is not valid, and youths cannot hunt before their 12th birthday. Hunters under 16 must be accompanied by someone 18 or older who meets hunter education requirements.

### **HUNTER EDUCATION (SAFETY)**

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1949, must have completed an approved hunter education course or bowhunter education course (for archery licenses only) sanctioned by a state or province before applying for or purchasing a license. Colorado honors hunter education courses from other states and provinces. A hunter safety card must be presented when buying a license. All hunters must carry their hunter education card when hunting unless "Verified" is printed by the DOW on their license.

*New for 2007-08:* All mountain lion hunters in Colorado are required to complete a mountain lion education certification course before obtaining a lion license or hunting. See "License Information."

### **HUNTING HOURS**

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

### **BAG LIMITS**

1. One mountain lion of either sex from the day after the close of the last combined deer and elk season through March 31 (April 30 only in unit 40).
2. A lion killed during special damage seasons doesn't count toward the annual bag limit.
3. A lion killed on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation does not count toward the annual bag limit.

### **LEGAL METHODS OF TAKE**

1. **CENTERFIRE RIFLES OR HANDGUNS:** Bullets must weigh min. 45 grains; must produce min. 400-foot lbs. of energy at muzzle.
2. **MUZZLELOADING RIFLES:** Min. .40 caliber.
3. **SHOTGUNS:** Min. 20 gauge. Must fire single slug.
4. **HAND-HELD BOWS:** Long bow, recurved bow or compound bow on which the string is not drawn mechanically or held mechanically under tension. String or mechanical releases that are hand drawn or hand held without other attachments or connections to the bow (other than bowstring) are legal.
  - a. Hand-held bows, including compound bows, must use arrows equipped with a broadhead with an outside diameter or min. width of 7/8 inches with a min. of 2 steel cutting edges. Each cutting edge must be in the same plane for the entire length of the cutting surface.
  - b. Min. draw weight of 35 lbs. required. Let-off percentage max. of 80%.
  - c. No part of bow's riser (handle) or track, trough, channel, arrow rest or other device (excluding cables and bowstring) that attaches to the riser can contact support and/or guide the arrow from a point rearward of the bow's brace height behind the undrawn string.
  - d. Bows can propel only a single arrow at a time. No mechanisms for auto-

matically loading arrows are permitted.

e. Electric or battery-powered devices cannot be incorporated or attached to a bow.

f. Hydraulic or pneumatic technology cannot be used to derive or store energy to propel arrows. Explosive arrows are prohibited.

**5. CROSSBOWS:**

a. Draw weight: min. 125 lbs.

b. Draw length: min. 14 inches from front of the bow to nocking point of the drawstring.

c. Positive mechanical safety device is required.

d. Bolt must be min. 16 inches long, have a broadhead at least 7/8 inch wide and a min. of 2 steel cutting edges. Each cutting edge must be in the same plane for the entire length of cutting surface.

6. Methods not listed are prohibited.

**SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

1. Artificial light, electronic devices and electronic calls are illegal. It is illegal to use electronic night vision equipment, electronically enhanced light-gathering optics or thermal imaging devices as an aid in hunting or taking wildlife. Hand-held calls are permitted.

2. Bait is illegal.

3. Dogs are permitted. No more than 8 dogs are allowed per pack.

4. After a lion is pursued, treed, cornered or held at bay, you must kill or release the lion. It is illegal to prevent a lion from escaping so that someone not in your hunting party can kill it.

5. Lion hunters are not required to wear daylight fluorescent orange clothes.

6. It is illegal to kill a kitten or mountain lion accompanied by one or more kittens. A kitten is a lion with spots.

7. All edible parts of lions must be properly prepared for human consumption, excluding internal organs.

8. You must attach a carcass tag to a lion you kill, per instructions on tag.

9. Hunting with archery equipment, rifles, handguns or shotguns firing single slugs is prohibited within 50 feet on either side of the centerline of state highways and municipal or county roads.

**EVIDENCE OF SEX**

1. It is illegal to have or transport a mountain lion carcass without evidence of sex naturally attached. Evidence of sex means testicles or penis of male or vulva of female.

2. Evidence of sex not required when donation certificate accompanies less than 20 lbs. of meat or after carcass is commercially processed, cut into portions, wrapped and frozen for storage or stored at licensee's home.

**INSPECTION AND SEALS**

Hunters must contact the DOW within 48 hours of a lion kill and give their name, CID number, license number, date and unit of the kill, and sex of the lion. If you get voice mail, leave a message with the information. Within 5 days of harvest, hunters must personally present their lion to a DOW office or officer for inspection and seal. Hides cannot be frozen. Lions or parts cannot be taken out of Colorado unless inspected and sealed. Lion hides or heads without seals become state property. A mandatory check report must be completed during inspection. Inspections and seals are free. Seals must stay attached until hide is tanned.

## **TOOTH COLLECTION**

The Division is asking hunters to allow collection of a small tooth located just behind the lion's upper canine. The tooth will be analyzed to determine the lion's age. Hunters can help by making sure the jaw is propped open with a stick before rigor sets in and not having the carcass frozen during inspection. The animal's age will be posted on our website 4-5 months after lion season ends. Ages will be posted by seal numbers, so hunters should write the number down to check the age of their animal.

## **DONATING GAME MEAT**

**1.** You can donate more than 20 lbs. of unprocessed meat anywhere **ONLY** if: (a) recipient has an unfilled like license. A like license is for the same species, season, sex and method of take as donor's license; (b) recipient must tag the meat with his carcass tag. Donor's tag must stay with his portion. If the entire carcass is donated, donor and recipient tags must be attached.

**2.** You can donate up to 20 lbs. of unprocessed meat anywhere to anyone without a like license, or more than 20 lbs. of unprocessed meat if donation occurs at recipient's home.

**3.** Processed and packaged game meat can be donated to anyone, anywhere in any amount.

**4.** Donation certificate is required with names, addresses and phone numbers of donor and recipient; donor's license number; species and amount donated; date of kill and donor's signature. Certificates can be simple notes and must stay with the meat until it's consumed.

**5.** Donors and recipients are subject to all bag and possession limits.

## **MOUNTAIN LION MANAGEMENT**

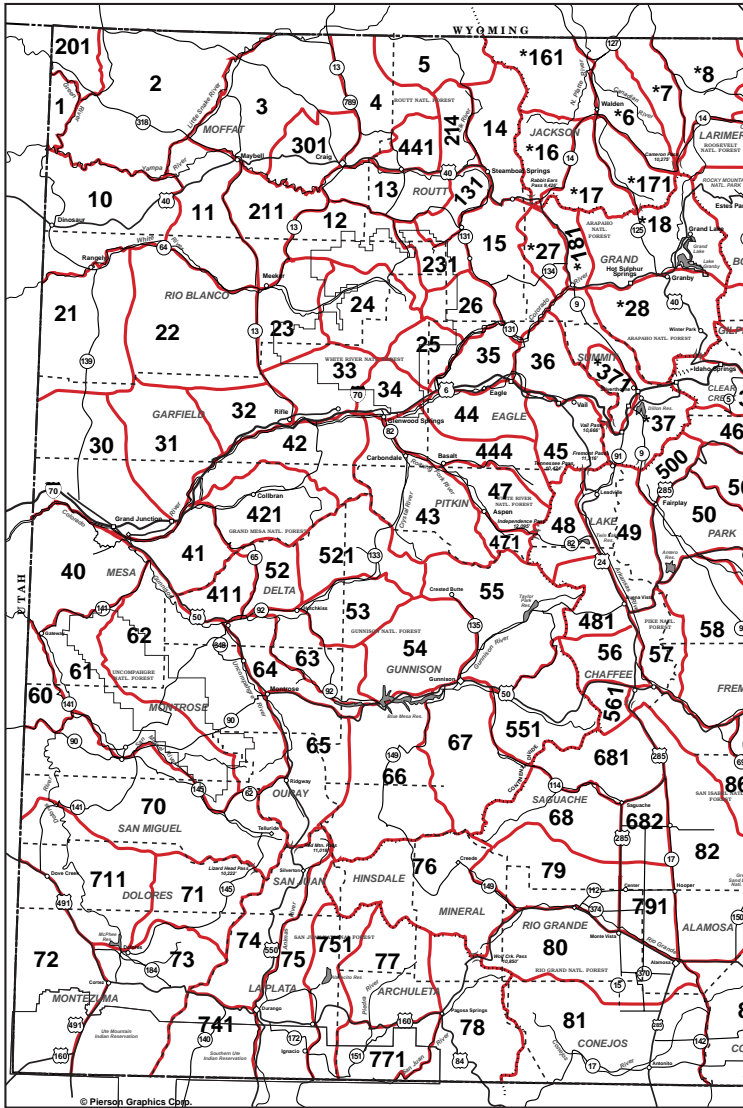
The DOW develops management plans for mountain lion populations in Colorado. Data analysis unit plans assess available lion habitat and potential lion numbers in large geographic areas. Game management unit harvest quotas found on pages 10 and 11 are determined annually to assure that lion mortality objectives in the plans are not exceeded.

## **CONSERVING COLORADO'S MOUNTAIN LIONS**

Although they inhabit much of Colorado, mountain lions are secretive animals, making it difficult to monitor individual animals and populations. Biologists know about half of adult females have cubs each year. Cubs are dependent on their mother for 11 to 18 months. Populations are very sensitive to female deaths. A large number of female deaths can shift a population from increasing to decreasing. Young male lions disperse long distances from birth areas for survival and better reproductive opportunities. In contrast, females don't disperse far, and some don't disperse at all. If too many adult females are harvested, it can take longer for lions to reoccupy an area. Therefore, taking too many females can have far-reaching implications for Colorado's overall lion population. Because of female lions' biological importance to mountain lion populations, wildlife managers use the amount and proportion of female harvest in setting harvest limits. Hunter harvest and total mortality are examined on a consecutive 5-year average in each unit. If the female lion harvest and mortality are too high in an area with a goal of maintaining a stable or increasing population, harvest limits may be lowered. Hunters have a vested interest in avoiding killing too many females in units with those goals. The DOW asks hunters to refrain voluntarily from killing female lions in units managed to maintain stable populations. These units are indicated by \* in the license tables and unit map. Hunters in these units are encouraged to identify the lion's gender and make an informed choice.

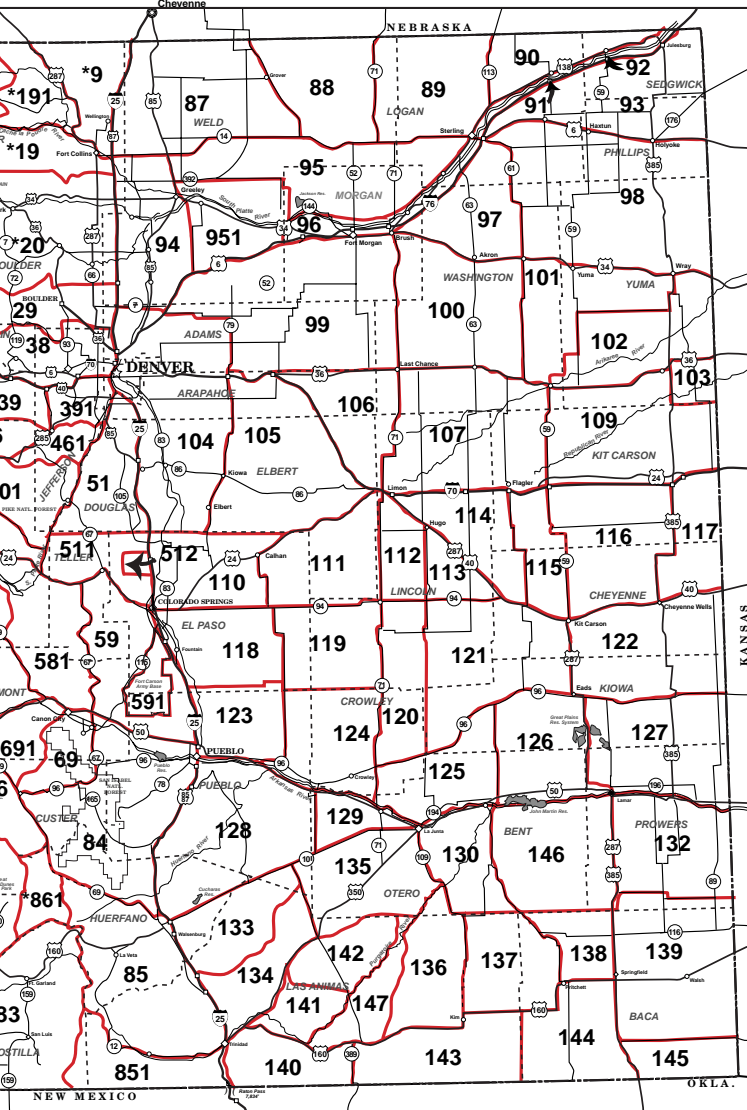
# GAME MANAGEMENT

(Units with \* are those where hunters are asked to vote)



# MENT UNIT MAP

arily reduce the take of female mountain lions.)



## **DISTINGUISHING MALE AND FEMALE LIONS**

Experts recommend using binoculars to determine the sex of treed or bayed mountain lions. However, gender can be determined with the naked eye if you are close enough. If a lion is in a tree and it's difficult to identify sex, get it to move so you have a better view. A treed lion is likely to move if you bang a branch on the tree trunk or throw a few snowballs or pine cones into branches near the lion. Remember, it is illegal to kill a female with cubs present. The absence of cubs with a lion does not mean it is a male or an unbred adult female. Based on research efforts to capture females with cubs, their young are close about half the time. Males usually have three spots below the base of their tail. Just under their tail is the anal opening; about 1 inch below that is the scrotum, an oval-shaped patch of silver, light brown and white fur. Beneath the scrotum is a small (about 1 inch across), conspicuous black spot that surrounds the penis sheath opening. In contrast, females have only two spots below the base of their tail, including the anal opening hidden beneath the base of the tail and vaginal opening directly below the anus. The rest of the area behind the female's hindquarters is covered with white fur. While colored spots help in identification, first and foremost, look for the location of the darkest spot. If it is high and near the tail or is difficult to see, the lion is probably female. If the dark patch of fur is lower (4-5 inches) beneath the tail, the lion is probably male. Because treed or bayed lions often urinate, look for the origin of the urine stream. If urine comes from behind the hind legs, about 4-5 inches below the anus, the lion is probably male. If the stream is from under the base of the tail, there's a good chance the lion is female. Paw tracks also can be good indicators of gender. Adult and large, sub-adult males usually have hind foot plantar (heel) pads more than  $2 \frac{1}{16}$  inches (52 mm) wide. Adult and sub-adult female lions usually have heel pads  $2 \frac{1}{16}$  inches or less wide. Hunters should carry a small ruler or wind-up metal tape to measure tracks.



Female mountain lion hindquarters



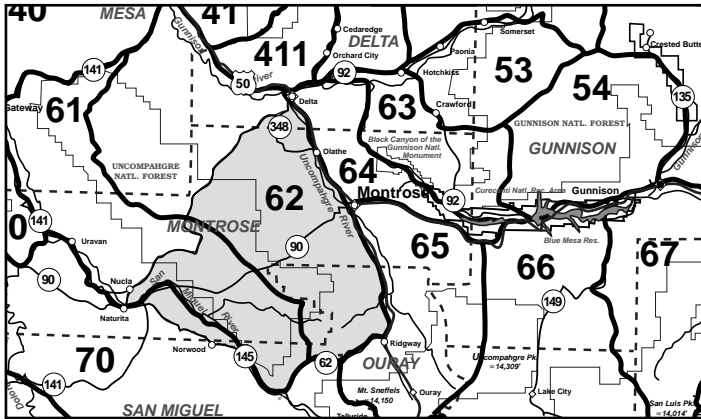


Male mountain lion hindquarters

**RESEARCH CLOSURE, RESTRICTIONS ON TAKE**

1. Lion hunting and take are prohibited through March 31, 2009, in the southern half of units 61 and 62, and northern part of unit 70 (except if a lion threatens human safety, depredates livestock or if DOW provides prior written approval). Closed area is bounded on E by Hwy. 348 at Delta, on N by 25 Mesa Rd. and USFS Rd. 503 to Nucla, on S and W by Hwy. 97 to Hwys. 141 and 145 to Placerville and on S by Hwy. 62 to Ridgeway and on E by US 550 to Montrose and by US 50 to Delta.

2. Taking collared lions or lions with orange or yellow ear tags is prohibited through March 31, 2009, in all of units 61 and 62 and the part of unit 70 described above (except if a lion threatens human safety, depredates livestock or if DOW provides prior written approval).



Mountain lion research closure

**CHILD SUPPORT DELINQUENCY**

State law requires your Social Security number to buy licenses. It is not displayed on licenses but is provided, if requested, to Child Support Enforcement authorities. Licenses are not issued to people delinquent in child support.

# MOUNTAIN LION EITHER-SEX LICENSES

Units .....	Harvest Quotas
1, 2.....	5
3, 301.....	5
4 N of CR 27 and USFS Rd 110 & 5.....	8
4 S of CR 27 and USFS Rd 110 & 441 .....	5
*6, *16, *17, *161, *171.....	3
*7.....	1
*8.....	4
*9.....	3
10.....	10
11.....	12
12.....	14
13 W of Hayden Divide Rd (CR 53).....	12
13 E of Hayden Divide Rd (CR 53) & 131 .....	5
15.....	6
*18, *27, *28, *37, *181, *371 .....	8
*19.....	5
*20.....	9
21.....	8
22.....	13
23.....	10
24.....	3
25, 26, 34 .....	10
29.....	2
30.....	11
31.....	8
32.....	5
33.....	13
35.....	3
36.....	5
38.....	7
39, 391.....	5
40.....	7
41.....	3
42.....	10
43.....	2
44.....	3
46.....	2
47.....	1
48, 49, 50, 481, 500.....	6
51, 104.....	7
52, 411.....	10
53, 63.....	8
54, 55, 551 .....	7

56, 561.....	5
57, 58, 581 .....	19
59, 591.....	8
60.....	5
61 (see Research Closure).....	7
62 (see Research Closure).....	7
64.....	6
65.....	5
66, 67 .....	8
68, 681, 682 .....	5
69, 84, 86, 691, 861 .....	24
70 east of Colo. 141 (see Research Closure) .....	10
70 west of Colo. 141 .....	6
71, 711.....	11
72.....	3
73.....	7
74, 741.....	5
75.....	2
76, 79, 791 .....	5
77.....	4
78.....	4
80.....	3
81.....	2
82.....	6
83.....	7
85, 140, 851 .....	24
123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147.....	14
*191.....	8
201.....	5
211.....	17
421.....	8
444.....	4
461.....	4
501.....	4
511.....	4
521.....	6
751, 771 .....	3

\* Units where hunters are asked to voluntarily reduce the take of female mountain lions.

# DOW SERVICE CENTERS

Division of Wildlife headquarters  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, 80216  
(303) 297-1192

Southeast Region Svc. Ctr.  
4255 Sinton Rd.  
Colorado Springs, 80907  
(719) 227-5200

Northeast Region Svc. Ctr.  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, 80216  
(303) 291-7227

Southwest Region Svc. Ctr.  
151 E. 16th St.  
Durango, 81301  
(970) 247-0855

Northwest Region Svc. Ctr.  
711 Independent Ave.  
Grand Junction, 81505  
(970) 255-6100

Monte Vista Svc. Ctr.  
0722 S. Road 1 E  
Monte Vista, 81144  
(719) 587-6900

Fort Collins Svc. Ctr.  
317 W. Prospect Road  
Fort Collins, 80526  
(970) 472-4300

Montrose Svc. Ctr.  
2300 S. Townsend Ave.  
Montrose, 81401  
(970) 252-6000

Glenwood Spgs. Svc. Ctr.  
50633 Hwys. 6 & 24  
Glenwood Springs, 81601  
(970) 947-2920

Gunnison Svc. Ctr.  
300 W. New York Ave.  
Gunnison, 81230  
(970) 641-7060

Hot Sulphur Spgs. Svc. Ctr.  
346 Grand County Road 362  
Hot Sulphur Springs, 80451  
(970) 725-6200

Meeker Svc. Ctr.  
73485 Hwy. 64  
Meeker, 81641  
(970) 878-6090

Lamar Svc. Ctr.  
2500 S. Main St.  
Lamar, 81052  
(719) 336-6600

Steamboat Spgs. Svc. Ctr.  
925 Weiss Drive  
Steamboat Spgs., 80477  
(970) 870-2197

Brush Svc. Ctr.  
122 E. Edison, Box 128  
Brush, 80723  
(970) 842-6300

Pueblo Svc. Ctr.  
600 Reservoir Road  
Pueblo, 81005  
(719) 561-5300

Salida Svc. Ctr.  
7405 Hwy. 50  
Salida, 81201  
(719) 530-5520

[www.wildlife.state.co.us](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us)

Printed for free distribution by:

**COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

6060 Broadway, Denver 80216

(303) 297-1192

[www.wildlife.state.co.us](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us)

Published December 2007; 10,000 copies

Printed by: Metro Press, Denver. Cover photo: Tom Tietz

Editor: Brighid Kelly

The Colorado Division of Wildlife is funded primarily by hunting and fishing license fees, interest on those sales and by donations. The DOW also receives a portion of federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment sales. The DOW prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin and disabilities in all aspects of employment and public participation in its programs and services. For information or to register a complaint, contact DOW, 6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 80216, or call (303) 297-1192.