

COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

2010-11 Colorado Mountain Lion Hunting



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

LION MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

The Division of Wildlife develops management plans for mountain lion populations in Colorado. The harvest quotas found on pages 4-5 are determined annually to assure that lion mortality objectives are not exceeded.

CONSERVING COLORADO'S MOUNTAIN LIONS

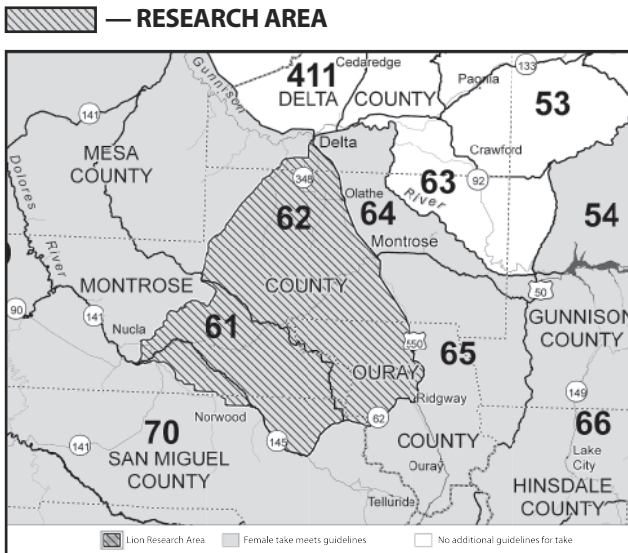
Mountain lion populations are very sensitive to female deaths. A large number of female deaths can shift a population from increasing to decreasing.

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 lion population.

Wildlife managers use the amount and proportion of female harvest when setting annual harvest limits. Hunter harvest and total mortality are examined on a consecutive 5-year average in each unit. If the female harvest and mortality are too high in an area with a goal of maintaining a stable or increasing population, harvest limits may be lowered.

The DOW asks hunters to refrain voluntarily from killing females in units managed to maintain stable populations. In addition, the DOW emphasizes the need to reduce female harvest in other units where recent harvests have exceeded management thresholds.

NOTE: Both of these types of units are designated in the harvest quota tables on pages 4-5 of this brochure.



1. The research 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 U.S. 550 to Montrose and by U.S. 50 to Delta.
2. A free permit is required to hunt lions in the research area. Permits are valid for 14 consecutive days and are unlimited. Permits are available at the DOW office in Montrose, 2300 S. Townsend Ave., beginning 14 days before mountain lion season opens through Jan. 31, or until the quota in the research area is filled.

BAG LIMITS

1. One mountain lion of either sex.
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.

SEASON DATES

Mountain lion season is from the day after the close of the last combined deer and elk rifle season through March 31, 2011; and through Jan. 31, 2011 in units 61, 62 and 70 in the research area.

HUNTING HOURS

Hunters may hunt lions from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

MINIMUM HUNTING AGE

Hunters must be at least 12 years old to hunt big game.

Eleven-year-olds can buy a license if they will 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.

DONATING WILDLIFE

1. You can donate more than 20 pounds 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 or her carcass tag. Donor's tag must stay with donor's portion. If the entire carcass is donated, donor and recipient tags must be attached.
2. Up to 20 pounds of unprocessed meat can be donated anywhere to anyone without a like license. More than 20 pounds of unprocessed meat can be donated, 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.

LICENSE FEES

» Resident\$ 41

» Nonresident\$351

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

SAVE TIME: BUY ONLINE OR BY PHONE

Buy your license through the DOW's website

or by calling

1-800-244-

5613. Credit

cards are

accepted for

phone and

Internet purchases. DOW

license agents and offices also

sell licenses.



CALL TO CHECK OPEN UNITS 1-888-940-LION (5466)

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) after 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 to hunt.

LICENSE & UNIT QUOTAS

Quotas are the total number of lions that can be harvested within the corresponding units. Units not listed in the tables are not open to lion hunting. Map, pages 6-7.

Taking female lions has exceeded management guidelines in the units listed below. **The DOW emphasizes the need for hunters to reduce the take of female mountain lions in these units.**

UNITS	HARVEST QUOTA
6, 16, 17, 161, 171	3



Photo by © Vic Schendel

The DOW does not make any special requests of hunters regarding the take of female lions in the units below.

UNITS	HARVEST QUOTA
10	10
11	12
12	14
13 (W of Hayden Divide Road, CR 53)	12
13 (E of Hayden Divide Road, CR 53) and 131	5
21	10
22	13
23	12
24	3
29	2
30	7
31	12
32	5
33	13
38	7
39, 391	7
41	3
42	10
46	4
51	7
52, 411	10
53, 63	8
104, 105, 110	5
123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147	14
211	17
421	8
461	7
521	6
All other units E of I-25:	5
<i>Includes: 87-103, 106, 107, 109, 111-122, 951</i>	

Units below have had acceptable amounts of female mountain lion harvest. **Hunters are requested to continue voluntarily refraining from the take of female lions in these areas.**

UNITS	HARVEST QUOTA	UNITS	HARVEST QUOTA
1,2	5	62 (N of Delta-Nucla Road)	7
3,301	5	64	6
4 (N of CR 27 and USFS Road 110) and 5	8	65	5
4 (S of CR 27 and USFS Road 110) and 214,441	5	66,67	8
7	1	68,681,682	5
8	4	69,84,86,691,861	24
9	3	70 (E of Colo. 141 except between Colo 145 and San Miguel River N of Norwood Bridge)	10
15	4	70 (W of Colo. 141)	6
18,27,28,37,181,371	9	71,711	11
19	5	72	3
20	9	73	7
25,26,34	8	74,741	6
35	3	75	4
36,361	5	76,79,791	5
40	7	77	4
43	5	78	4
44	3	80	3
47	1	81	2
48,49,50,481,500	7	82	6
54,55,551	7	83	7
56,561	6	85,140,851	24
57,58,581	18	191	8
59,591	7	201	5
60	5	444	5
61 (N of Delta-Nucla Road)	7	501	4
61,62,70 (Uncompahgre Plateau Research Area)	8	511	4
		751,771	3

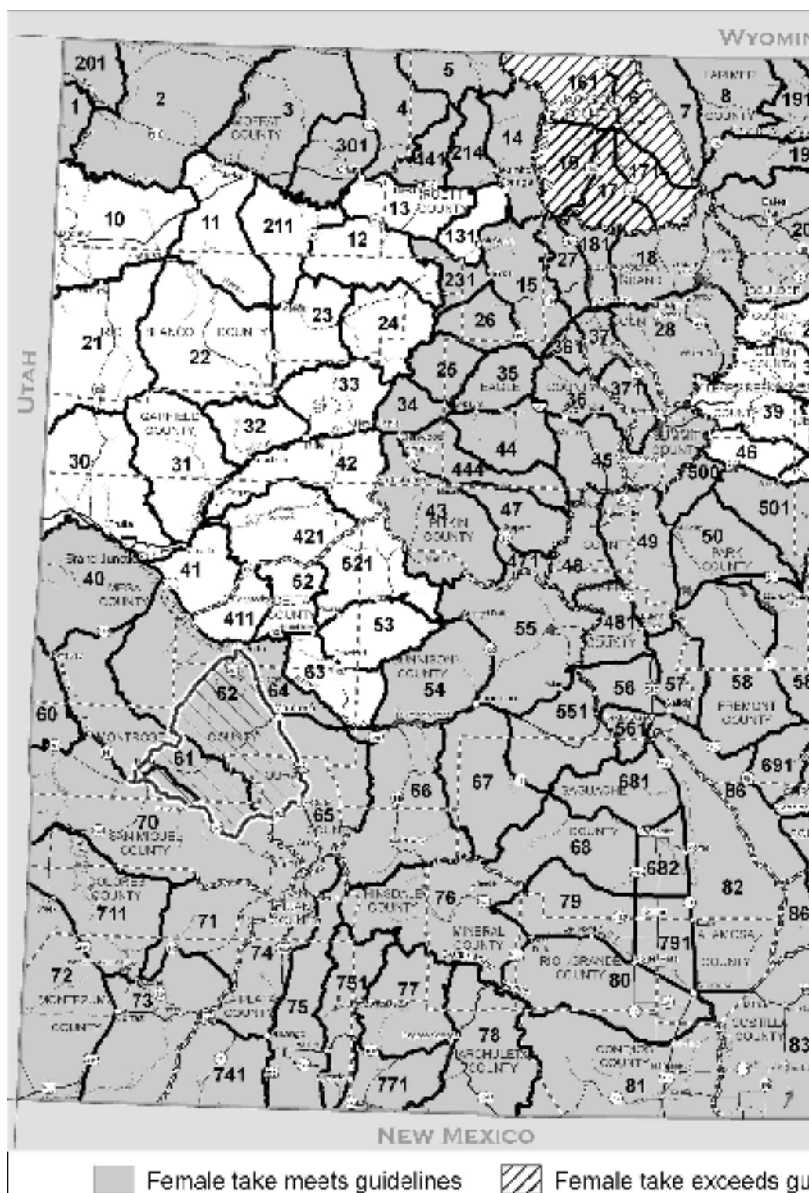
AFTER HARVEST

Once a mountain lion has been harvested, these steps will ensure proper reporting and inspection is completed. *See page 9 for more details.*

- 1. REPORT** the lion harvest to the DOW within 48 hours.
- 2. AFTER** any field photos are taken of the harvested lion, prop its jaw open with a stick in the mouth to help keep it open as rigor sets in. This will help DOW agents with tooth extraction later.
- 3. PRESENT** the lion to a DOW office within five days of harvesting for inspection and sealing. Heads and hides must be unfrozen. The DOW may retain heads and hides until they thaw to extract a tooth. At this time, hunters must also fill out a report about the hunt.

GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS & LION QUOTA

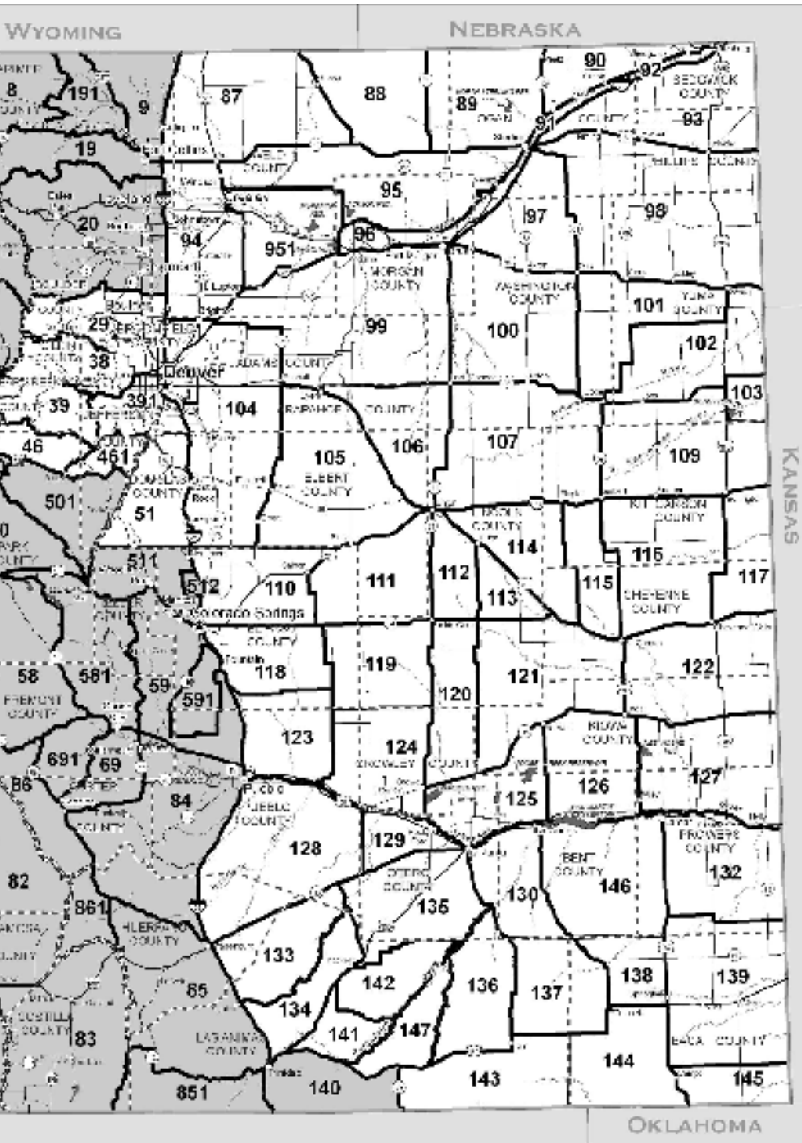
Standard hunting regulations and limits apply to all quota areas



FEMALE TAKE MEETS GUIDELINES -
DOW asks hunters to continue maintaining reduced female take in these units.

FEMALE TAKE EXCEEDS GUIDELINES -
DOW emphasizes the need for hunters to reduce female take in these units.

ON QUOTA AREAS



ceeds guidelines

No guidelines

Lion Research Area

GUIDELINES -
r hunters to
units.

NO GUIDELINES - There are no
DOW voluntary guidelines for
taking female lions in these areas.

RESEARCH AREA - Lion
harvest is allowed in the
research area. See page 2
for information.

HUNTING REGULATIONS

LEGAL METHODS OF TAKE

1. CENTERFIRE RIFLES OR HANDGUNS:

Bullets must weigh a minimum of 45 grains and produce at least 400-foot pounds of energy at muzzle.

2. MUZZLELOADING RIFLES: Minimum .40 caliber.

3. SHOTGUNS: Minimum 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 a minimum width of 7/8 inches with a minimum of two steel cutting edges. Each cutting edge must be in the same plane for the entire length of the cutting surface.

b. Minimum draw weight of 35 pounds required. Let-off percentage maximum of 80 percent.

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 automatically 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: minimum 125 pounds.

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

c. Positive mechanical safety device is required.

d. Bolt must be minimum 16 inches long, have a broadhead at least 7/8 inch wide and a minimum of two 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. 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 is not required when donation certificate accompanies less than 20 pounds 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 five 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

At inspection, the DOW is authorized to extract and keep a premolar tooth.

If the head and hide are frozen, the DOW may keep them long enough to thaw so that a tooth can be removed. 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 the DOW website 4-5 months after lion season ends. Ages are posted by seal number, so hunters should record the number to check the age of their animal.

SAFE HANDLING OF GAME MEAT

1. Do not handle animals that are obviously sick or found dead. Report them to a DOW office.
2. Keep game cool, clean and dry.
3. Do not eat, drink or smoke while dressing game.
4. Use disposable gloves when cleaning game.
5. Wash your hands with soap and water, or use alcohol wipes after dressing game.
6. Clean all tools and surfaces immediately afterward. Use hot soapy water, then disinfect with a 10% chlorine bleach solution.
7. Cook meat to an internal temperature of at least 165° F to kill organisms and parasites. Juices from adequately cooked game meat should be clear.
8. Do not eat raw portions of wild game.
9. Do not feed raw game to domestic pets.



OPERATION GAME THIEF

Call: 1-877-265-6648

Operation Game Thief is a nonprofit organization working with DOW's law enforcement. It pays rewards to citizens who report poachers or resource violations. Callers don't have to reveal their names, testify in court or sign a deposition. Rewards are paid if the information leads to an arrest or citation. Rewards do not depend on a conviction but must be requested when a violation is reported.

**The number cannot be used for information requests or emergencies.*

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1. YOU MUST HAVE A LION LICENSE and carry it when hunting. Licenses are sold at DOW license agents and offices, on the DOW website, and by phone. *See page 3 for details.*

2. HUNTER EDUCATION: Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1949, must have completed an approved hunter education course 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 (unless previously verified). All hunters must carry their hunter education card when hunting unless a "V" is printed on the license, which indicates hunter education has been verified at a DOW office.

3. TO OBTAIN A MOUNTAIN LION LICENSE, you must complete the DOW's certified mountain lion education and identification course. For mountain lion education study mate-

rials, a practice test and official test, go to the website. You must enter your CID number when taking the official test. If you do not have a CID, contact a DOW office. Tests also can be taken at DOW offices. Upon successful completion of the test, a certificate will be issued by the DOW. Hunters must carry the certificate while hunting unless "Verified" is printed by the DOW logo on their license.

4. A HABITAT STAMP IS REQUIRED for those ages 18-64 who buy or apply for hunting or fishing licenses. Cost is \$5, no more than 2 required per person, per year. A lifetime stamp is \$200.25.

5. CHILD SUPPORT DELINQUENCY. State law requires Social Security numbers for all licenses purchased. It is not displayed on the license but may be provided, if requested, to Child Support Enforcement authorities. Hunting and fishing licenses are not issued to people delinquent in child support.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

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.) The residence address given to purchase or apply for a license must be the same address used on your Colorado income tax return.

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 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, you lose your Colorado residency if you apply for, buy or accept a 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.

IDENTIFYING MALE/FEMALE LIONS

Binoculars are recommended to determine the sex of treed or bayed lions.

Gender also 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 its sex, get it to move so you have a better view. 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 kittens present. The absence of kittens with a lion does not mean it is a male or an unbred adult female. Research has shown that young are close to their mothers 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, conspicuous black spot (about 1 inch across) that surrounds the penis sheath opening.

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.

Although colored spots help in identification, first and foremost, look for the darkest spot. If it is high and near the tail or is difficult to see, the lion is probably female. If the dark



Male mountain lion hindquarters



Female mountain lion hindquarters

patch is 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. If urine comes from behind the hind legs, about 4-5 inches below the anus, the lion is probably male. If the stream comes from under the base of the tail, there's a good chance the lion is female.

Tracks also can be good indicators of gender. Adult and large, sub-adult males usually have hind foot plantar (heel) pads more than 2 1/16 inches (52 mm) wide. Adult and sub-adult female lions usually have heel pads 2 1/16 inches wide or less. Hunters should carry a small ruler or wind-up metal tape to measure tracks.

Visit the DOW website for more: www.wildlife.state.co.us

DOW OFFICES

HEADQUARTERS & ADMINISTRATION

6060 Broadway
Denver, 80216
(303) 297-1192

SERVICE CENTERS:

BRUSH

122 E. Edison
Brush, 80723
(970) 842-6300

COLORADO SPRINGS

4255 Sinton Rd.
Colorado Springs,
80907
(719) 227-5200

DENVER/NORTHEAST

6060 Broadway
Denver, 80216
(303) 291-7227

DURANGO

151 E. 16th St.
Durango, 81301
(970) 247-0855

FORT COLLINS

317 W. Prospect Rd.
Fort Collins, 80526
(970) 472-4300

GLENWOOD SPRINGS

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

GRAND JUNCTION

711 Independent Ave.
Grand Junction,
81505
(970) 255-6100

GUNNISON

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

HOT SULPHUR SPRINGS

346 Grand Co. Rd. 362
Hot Sulphur
Springs, 80451
(970) 725-6200

LAMAR

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

MEEKER

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

MONTE VISTA

0722 S. Road 1 East
Monte Vista, 81144
(719) 587-6900

MONTROSE

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

PUEBLO

600 Reservoir Rd.
Pueblo, 81005
(719) 561-5300

SALIDA

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

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

925 Weiss Dr.
Steamboat Springs,
80477
(970) 870-2197

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The Wildlife Commission sets lion regulations in September. Wildlife Commissioners (as of Sept. 2010): Tim Glenn, chair • Robert Streeter, vice chair • Mark Smith, secretary • David R. Brougham, member • Dennis Buechler, member • Dorothea Farris, member • Allan Jones, member • John Singletary, member • Dean Wingfield, member • Mike King, ex officio member • John Stulp, ex officio member

NOTE: Laws and regulations in this brochure are paraphrased for easier understanding and are intended only as a guide. The official Colorado statutes and regulations are available on the DOW website or at DOW offices.