

STATEMENT OF REASONS

CHAPTER 42

MOUNTAIN LION HUNTING SEASONS

W.S. § 23-1-302 directs and empowers the Commission to fix seasons and bag limits, open, shorten or close seasons on any species or sex of wildlife except predatory animals, predacious birds, protected animals and protected birds.

W.S. § 23-1-703 (e) empowers the Commission to determine the allocation of resident and nonresident mountain lion harvest.

The Commission proposes to amend this regulation to establish annual hunting seasons, mortality limits and limitations for mountain lion hunting seasons. At the time of this filing, the 2018 mountain lion harvest information is not yet available to the Department. Individual hunt area season dates, limitations and mortality limits may be modified as a result of harvest data currently being evaluated. Any additional proposed changes to hunting season dates, specific hunt area limitations, mortality limits, hunt area boundaries or other hunting provisions will be made available for public comment during all public meetings held around the state.

Section 3, Hunting Regulations. New language is being added to address the harvest of a mountain lion that has been caught in a trap or snare.

Minor grammatical and formatting edits have been incorporated to provide additional clarity but do not change the intent of the regulation.