

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.

W.S. § 23-3-109 (a) authorizes the Commission to regulate the use of dogs to take mountain lions.

The Commission proposes to amend this regulation to establish hunting seasons, mortality limits and limitations for mountain lion hunting seasons. The Department sets hunting seasons based on public input, harvest data, population monitoring and management objectives. At the time of this filing, the 2021 mountain lion harvest information is not yet available to the Department. Individual hunt area season dates, hunt area limitations, hunt area boundaries 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. In addition, an updated draft regulation will be made available for comment on the Department website once the pertinent harvest data becomes available.

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