

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 for mountain lions, and to consider establishing and regulating resident mountain lion pursuit seasons.

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

W.S. § 23-2-307 (c) authorizes the Commission to require the purchase of a special management permit by any person participating in a resident mountain lion pursuit season.

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

The Department proposes to amend this regulation to set mountain lion mortality limits and may modify mountain lion hunting seasons. The Department sets mountain lion hunting seasons based on public input, harvest data, winter big game mortality data, population monitoring and management objectives.

At the time of this filing, the 2024 mountain lion harvest information and 2024-2025 winter big game mortality data 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 and mortality 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 shall be made available for public comment during all in-person public meetings held around the state. In addition, an updated draft regulation will be made available for comment on the Department website in May for additional public comment.

The name of the current Commission President and the date the Commission is expected to take action on this regulation have been updated.

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