

Meeting Date: November 16, 2023

Agenda Item No. 5C

Agenda Item: Mountain Lion Management Plan
(ACTION)

Bureau Chief Approval: SR

Prepared by: Katie Oelrich, Wildlife Staff Biologist

Background:

Department staff have drafted a revision to the *Idaho Mountain Lion Management Plan 2024-2029*. The intent of this update is to set direction for mountain lion management in Idaho and to function as the action plan for mountain lion management activities through 2029. This management plan provides needed updates to current information and identifies major issues affecting mountain lion management.

The Department continues to focus mountain lion management actions to deliberately address resolution of conflicts with livestock, human-safety concerns, and negative impacts on big game populations, while ensuring a self-sustaining lion population. This plan will guide the Department in annual work plan development and program prioritization and provide guidance on the development of regulatory recommendations.

Staff presented an overview of the draft *Idaho Mountain Lion Management Plan 2024-2029* at the July 2023 Commission meeting. Staff will provide a review of public comments received on the draft plan and revisions made to the final draft in response to public input.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through supervision and management of the Department (Idaho Code 36-104). Species management plans are the guiding documents for management actions and are a direct reflection of the Department Strategic Plan. The *Idaho Mountain Lion Management Plan 2024-2029* will function as the action plan for mountain lion management in Idaho.

Public Involvement Process:

The draft *Idaho Mountain Lion Management Plan 2024-2029* was posted on the Department website for public review and comment for 21 days from August 2 – August 23, 2023. The Department received 233 individual comments submitted through online webform, email, phone call, or letter from the public and sporting groups.

Staff reviewed and considered all comments received. This input was used to make improvements to the draft plan and a revised final plan has been prepared for Commission review and consideration for adoption.

Justification:

The Commission sets policy and provides direction, considers input from the public, and has the authority to adopt, amend, or reject Department-recommended plans.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommend the Commission adopt the *Idaho Mountain Lion Management Plan 2024-2029*.

Suggested Motion: I move the Commission adopt the *Idaho Mountain Lion Management Plan 2024-2029*.