

Appendix: Draft Mountain Lion Management Plan Public Scoping Summary

Solicitation of Public Comment:

The draft *Idaho Mountain Lion Management Plan 2024–2029* was posted for public review and comments on the Department’s website during the 21 day-open comment period (August 2 – August 23, 2023). The Department received ~233 submissions through an online webform, phone call, or email from a wide variety of groups including the public and sportsmen’s groups.

Summary of Public Input:

We reviewed and considered all submission received pertaining to the draft *Idaho Mountain Lion Management Plan 2024–2029*. A total of 215 unique individuals selected a level of support for the plan after duplicates, no choice, and blank entries were removed. Substantive comments received during this period are addressed below or incorporated directly into the revised draft. Seven people did not select a support preference for the plan; however, they commented on mountain lion management and those comments were included in the summary of comments.

- **Residency:** 199 (93%) residents and 16 (7%) nonresidents
- **Support Levels (Table 1):**
 - **Overall:**
 - 94 (44%) Support, 65 (30%) Support with Concerns, and 56 (26%) Do Not Support
 - **Resident:**
 - 86 (43%) Support, 59 (30%) Support with Concerns, and 54 (27%) Do Not Support
 - Top cites of residence of Idahoans accessing the web input form: Idaho Falls, Boise, Pocatello, Preston, and Meridian
 - **Nonresident:**
 - 8 (50%) Support, 6 (37 %) Support with Concerns, and 2 (13%) Do Not Support
 - Top three states of residence of non-resident users accessing the web input form: California, Oregon, and Washington

Table 1: Level of support for the draft plan based on the webform and other submission (n = 222).

Level	Support	Support w/Concern	Do Not Support	Total
Overall	94 (44%)	65 (30%)	56 (26%)	215
Resident	86 (43%)	59 (30%)	54 (27%)	199
Nonresident	8 (50%)	6 (37%)	2 (13%)	16

Summary of Comments: Summarized from the public via web input form and letters from representatives of sportsmen organizations. Some commenters did not choose a support level for the plan but included a comment related to mountain lion management and/or the draft plan. Also, several commenters selected the level of support for mountain lion plan in general but did not directly address the draft plan in the comments.

In addition to comments from individuals, the following groups and organizations submitted comments: Idaho Trappers Association, Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation, Idaho Wildlife Federation, and Safari Club International

Elements of the plan that received the most comments:

- Concerned about conflicts with ungulates, livestock, and human-safety
- Concerned about protecting females and females with dependent young
- Mountain lions population is too high or too many mountain lions being killed
- Use science to monitor and manage mountain lions
- Concerned about other states restrictions, losing opportunity
- Concerns related to Seasons and Rules
 - Reinstate quotas
 - Allow trapping
 - No bag limits
 - Year-round season
 - Restrictions on female take
 - Reduce/eliminate dog training seasons
 - Reduce non-resident quotas/opportunity
 - Reduce outfitter opportunity

Example comments from Idaho residents included the following perspectives:

Support feedback

- Value mountain lions as a big game species, just want to see fewer.
- Support the plan because it and continues to recognize that mountain lions are a major predator of popular big game species, are a concern for negative interactions with people, prey on livestock and that mountain lions are a valued as species to hunt.
- Support improving population monitoring tools.
- Recognize that hound hunting is an important part of the culture of rural Idaho.

Support with Concerns

- Support management efforts in Idaho should favor increasing populations of elk and deer for harvest.
- Concerned about the impact to mountain lion populations with long seasons, second tags, and no quotas.
- Would like to see trapping or take from incidentally trapped lions allowed as a legal method of take.
- Concerned about restricting non-residents and outfitters.
- Concerned about protecting females and females with dependent young.

Do Not Support

- The draft plan did not go far enough; mountain lions should be classified as a predator or seasons need to be expanded.
- Concerned that mountain lions contributing to the decline in deer and elk populations.
- Mountain lion harvest is too high, and populations are decreasing.
- Idaho needs to reestablish quotas across the state and specifically in the Southeast region.