

Meeting Date: July 27, 2023

Agenda Item No. 8

Agenda Item: Release Draft Mountain Lion Management Plan for Public Comment

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*. 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. This plan will guide the Department in annual work plan development and program prioritization and provide guidance on development of regulatory recommendations.

Staff will present an overview of the *Draft Idaho Mountain Lion Management Plan* and will seek Commission approval to release the draft for public comment.

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* will function as the action plan for mountain lion management in Idaho.

Public Involvement Process:

With Commission consent, the draft plan will be posted on the Department's website for 21 days to provide an opportunity for public review and comment. Input from the public and partner agencies will be considered when preparing a final plan. Public input will be sought during August and September 2023.

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:

No formal action is requested at this time. Staff seeks Commission concurrence to release the *Draft Idaho Mountain Lion Management Plan* to the public, agency partners, and interested organizations for input. Staff will revise the draft based on input received, with the intent to complete a final plan to present to the Commission for approval and adoption at a future meeting.

Action Requested:

N/A