

**MOUNTAIN LION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES  
FOR  
LION DAU L-14  
GAME MANAGEMENT UNITS  
59, 591, 511, & 512**

Prepared for:  
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Southeast Region

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**DESCRIPTION OF MANAGEMENT AREA AND HABITAT**

DAU L-14 is located west of Interstate 25, north and south of Colorado Springs, Colorado and is included within portions of the Pike National Forest. It ranges in elevation from about 5,200 feet northwest of Pueblo, Colorado to over 14,000 at the summit of Pikes Peak. Vegetation, topographic slope and aspect, and terrain vary widely from foothill shortgrass and shrubland to alpine tundra. Favorable lion habitat occurs where there are canyons and arroyos with shrubland and Gambel's oak, and rolling forest land of Ponderosa pine and aspen mixed with open montane grasslands. The DAU includes GMUs with two sub-GMUs designated 512 and 591. GMU 512 is comprised entirely of the United States Air Force Academy and no lion hunting is permitted on Academy land at this time. GMU 591 is comprised entirely of the Fort Carson Army Base and lion hunting is possible but very limited due to Army training activities.

**SPORT HARVEST OBJECTIVE:** The sport harvest objective is 27 mountain lions based on the current quota.

**PRESCRIPTIONS:** If the sport harvest exceeds the quota: Re-evaluate the harvest quota and population estimate to ensure the quota is the proper number. Set the quota at the proper level to meet the current parameters of management. Redirect hunting pressure to other areas.

**GAME DAMAGE OBJECTIVE:** Damage caused by mountain lion should not exceed \$1,000 per year based on a 3-year average. Damage has averaged \$170 per year for the last 11 years.

**PRESCRIPTIONS:** Target specific animals that are causing damage problems. Increase public information efforts to minimize damage problems.

**HUMAN/LION CONFLICT OBJECTIVE:** There is one conflict that has occurred, in 1998. The human/conflict goal is to have fewer than 5 per year. We do receive 50 or so complaints or reports of lions in populated areas, of which 95% are dog or other animal tracks.

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**PRESCRIPTIONS:** If human/lion conflicts increase, then increase the number of public information programs and efforts to the general public. Increase temporary employee time to address problem areas. Provide additional workshops for the public, public agencies, and law enforcement personnel.

**SUMMARY:** Intent is to stay with the current quota, which allows for essentially unlimited hunting opportunity. Human/lion conflicts are few, but likely to increase due to human population increases and increasing numbers of people recreating in lion habitat. There is little likelihood of high dollar amounts in damage claims as there is not much livestock industry in L-14. Damage problems are with individuals with small numbers of sheep, goats, camel and llama. Harvest is predicted to stay the same or decrease due to fewer areas to hunt lion as a result of increasing human development.

There are no reasons to indicate that mountain lions are not a major factor in regulating deer or elk populations. Elk populations in this mountain lion DAU are stable or increasing and deer populations in some areas are declining while other areas have an increasing number of deer. Sport hunting will be utilized to harvest lions at a level that will allow maximum hunter opportunity and maintain a healthy lion population. Individual animals that cause excessive damage to livestock, personal property or pose a threat to human health or welfare will be removed as necessary. Control activity, other than sport harvest, is not anticipated to benefit deer or elk populations.