August 12, 2020

Cougar Population and Harvest Management Matrix (2020-21 through 2023-24).

Zone	Game Management Units	Estimated Cougar Habitat (km^2)[a]	Cougar Population Point Estimate[bc]	2020-24 Total Mortality Limit [d]	2020-24 Female Sub-Limit
A	2, 7	13,728	246	42	13
B	5, 6, 50, 51	NA[e]	167	25	9
C	43,45,46, 48, 49, 53	11,482	338	57	17
D	41, 42, 47, 59	6,468	91	15	5
E	9, 10	13,674	296	43	13
G	13, 17	14,422	292	50	15
H	18, 19, 20	11,878	168	29	9
I	36, 37, 38	7,138	143	24	7
J	15, 16, 21	19,048	492	84	25
K	22, 23, 24	11,299	265	45	14
L	25, 26, 27	10,122	109	19	8
M	31, 32, 33, 39, 40	21,394	181	25	7
N	4, 52	2,801	89	13	4
O	12	6,663	122	17	5
P	56, 57, 58	2,700	57	14	7
Q	28, 29, 30, 34	11,752	203	35	11
R	54, 55	4,557	153	26	8
S	8, 14	4,661	100	17	5
Totals:		**173,787**	**3,512**	592	181

[a]The quantity of habitat was derived from a model designed by G&F and T. Perry, PhD, and recent G&F research and population estimates. The habitat is classed as Excellent, Good, Moderate, and Fair; Excellent has a density of 3.0-4.0/100km2, Good has a density of 1.2-1.7/100km2, Moderate has a density of 0.6-0.9/100km2 and Fair has a density of 0.4-0.5/100km2 adult cougars. Densities derived from studies conducted in New Mexico. ~64% of the state is considered cougar habitat, 5% is tribal jurisdiction.

[b]The population estimated is that of independent cougars, ≥18 months of age.

[c]Cougar management aims for a stable population statewide with sustainable harvest levels into the future and is generally based on minimum population estimates. Stable = harvest ≤ 17% of total estimated population w/max of 30% female.

[d] 90% of Total mortality limit and/or female sub-limit will close harvest in any zone, whichever occurs first.

[e] Amount of cougar habitat was not used for the population point estimate; instead a density of 1.1 cougars/100 km^2 across the entire zone was used based on G&F research from 2018-2019 using population models that account for spatial variation in cougar density.