

STAFF SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 8-9, 2017

- D3. [DFW news release: DFW Awards \\$40 Million for Ecosystem and Watershed Restoration and Protection Projects, dated Dec 20, 2016](#)
- D4. [DFW news release: Warden Nicole Kozicki Recognized as CDFW Wildlife Officer of the Year, dated Dec 6, 2016](#)

Motion/Direction (N/A)

**State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife**

M e m o r a n d u m

Date: January 18, 2017

To: Valerie Termini
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director



Subject: Mountain Lion Necropsy Report (2016)

Please find the attached report on mountain lion necropsies performed by the Department during 2016. This report was compiled by Department staff to comply with Section 4807 of the Fish and Game Code.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact T.O. Smith, Chief, Wildlife Branch, at (916) 445-3555.

Attachment

ec: Stafford Lehr, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Stafford.Lehr@Wildlife.ca.gov

T.O. Smith, Chief
Wildlife Branch
Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Timothy.Smith@Wildlife.ca.gov

Steve Torres
Environmental Program Manager
Wildlife Branch
Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Steve.Torres@wildlife.ca.gov

Marc Kenyon
Mountain Lion Program Coordinator
Wildlife Branch
Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Marc.Kenyon@wildlife.ca.gov

**State of California
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**Report to the Fish and Game Commission
Regarding Findings of Necropsies on Mountain Lions
Taken Under Depredation Permits in 2016**

Submitted in compliance with Section 4807 of the Fish and Game Code

Summary

According to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) records at the time of this report, the Department issued 221 mountain lion depredation permits in calendar year 2016, and 98 mountain lions were reported as being taken. CDFW staff issued the greatest numbers of permits in March, April, and May (Figure 1). The reasons for property owners obtaining mountain lion depredation permits varied; goats accounted for nearly half (48%) of the total reported incidents, followed by sheep (27%) and domestic pets (cats and dogs; 6%) (Figure 2).

Of the 98 animals reported as being taken in 2016, CDFW staff necropsied 86, and 12 necropsies are still pending at the time of this report. Seventy percent of depredating mountain lions necropsied to date were male and 30% were female (Table 1). Sixty-two percent of mountain lions necropsied to date were aged as adults (24 months or older); 24% were sub-adults (13-24 months of age); and 14% were juveniles (12 months or younger; Table 2).

The majority of depredation mountain lion carcasses came from CDFW's North-Central Region (35%; Table 3).

The majority of necropsied mountain lion stomach contents contained hoofstock such as goat (24%) or sheep (11%); however, deer and various other contents were observed as well (Figure 3).

Figure 1. Monthly summary of mountain lion depredation reports for 2016. Includes the number of depredation permits issued each month and the number of mountain lions taken.

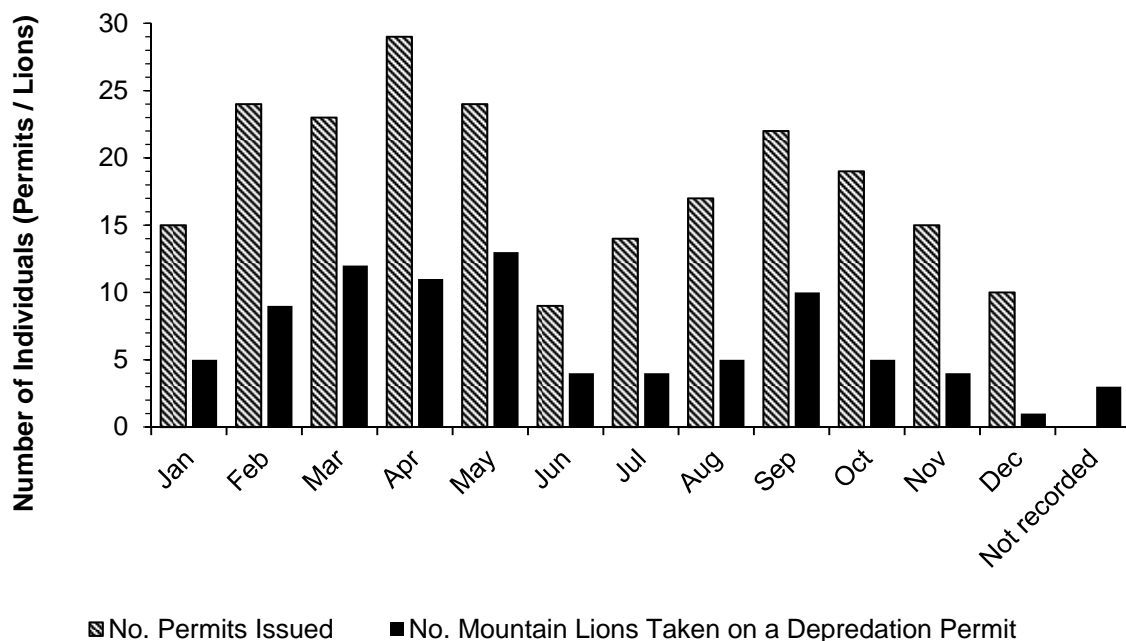


Figure 2. Total number of depredation permits issued in 2016 and the type of property damage reported (i.e. animal(s) reported to have been taken by a mountain lion). Note: These numbers are based upon the number of incidents and not the total number of animals claimed to have been taken in a single incident.

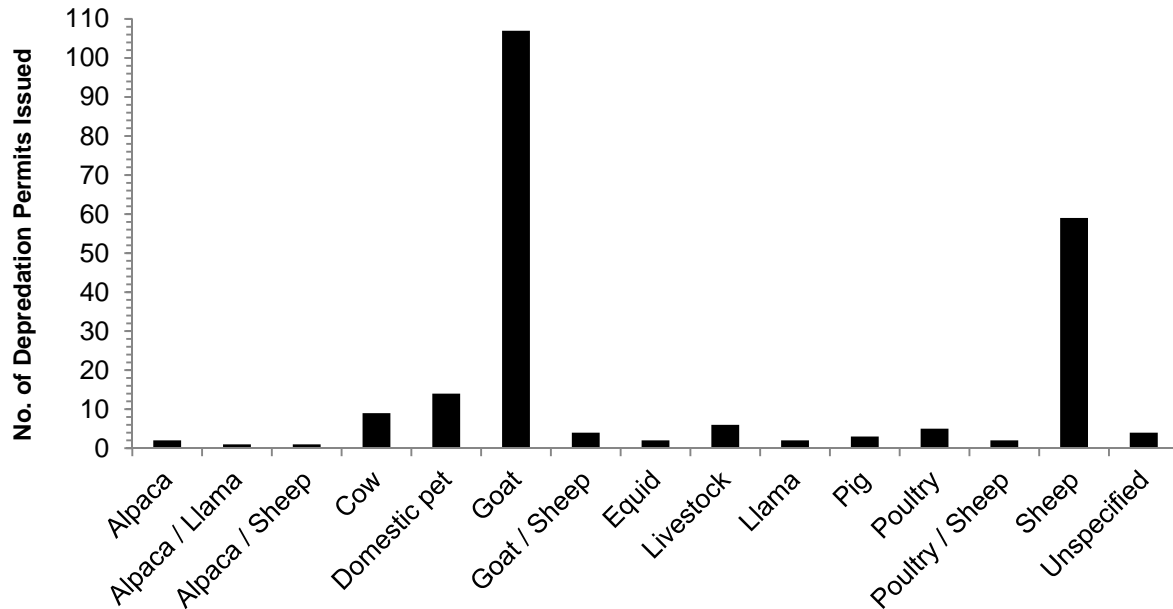


Table 1. Sex of depredating mountain lions necropsied by CDFW in 2016.

Sex	Total by Sex
Male	60
Female	26

Table 2. Ages of depredating mountain lions necropsied by CDFW in 2016.

Age Class	Total by Age Class
Juvenile ¹	12
Sub Adult ²	21
Adult ³	53

¹ Juvenile: 12 months or younger

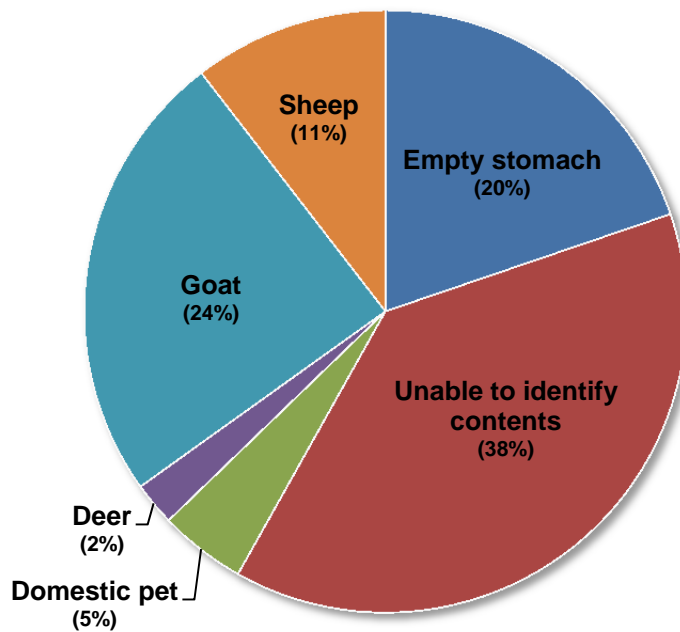
² Sub Adult: 13-23 months

³ Adult: 24 months or older

Table 3. Geographic distribution of depredating mountain lions necropsied by CDFW in 2016.

CDFW Region	Total by Region
Northern	19
North Central	30
Bay Delta	10
Central	15
South Coast	4
Inland Desert	8

Figure 3. Stomach contents of depredating mountain lions necropsied by CDFW in 2016*.



*Note: One lawful method of take for depredating mountain lions is by cage-trapping. Cage traps are typically baited with the remainder of a depredated carcass.



CDFW News



CDFW Releases New Guide to Heritage Trout Challenge

January 19, 2017

300th Angler Completes Popular Statewide Fishing Challenge

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has released the [Angler's Guide to the California Heritage Trout Challenge](#), a new online tool for those interested in fishing for California's heritage trout. The guide provides anglers with detailed information on how to complete the [Heritage Trout Challenge](#), including information about where to catch native trout, identification tips and a history of habitat restoration efforts.

Created in 2003, the Heritage Trout Challenge promotes California's unique opportunity to pursue one of the most diverse assemblages of native trout found in the United States. Over the millennia, 12 unique trout types evolved to inhabit California.

Over the past 14 years, CDFW has provided customized certificates to anglers who successfully caught and photographed at least six different California native trout from their historic drainages.

The program recently hit a milestone as Christy Seifert of Citrus Heights became the 300th angler to complete the Heritage Trout Challenge.

“This experience has turned me and my fishing group into trout nerds,” Seifert said. “Now we can’t stop trying to catch more and more different species of wild trout in new places.”

Some anglers take the challenge even further by catching all of the recognized native trout in California and earning the title of Master Angler.

“Being associated with the challenge and the anglers that have completed it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career,” said Roger Bloom, CDFW environmental program manager and creator of the Heritage Trout Challenge. “Hopefully this guide will provide inspiration, along with information, to help anglers complete the challenge and create their own native trout angling memories.”

CDFW invites anglers, families and friends to take the challenge. Through the process, anglers will hopefully explore new waters and enjoy the diverse fishing opportunities in California. Anglers are encouraged to research and explore the waterways where these trout live, as the learning process is key to the challenge. CDFW Heritage and Wild Trout Program staff is available to answer questions and offer tips. Most are anglers themselves and enjoy assisting others in their pursuit of the challenge.

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Media Contacts:

[Roger Bloom](#), CDFW Fisheries Branch, (916) 445-3777

[Clark Blanchard](#), CDFW Education and Outreach, (916) 651-7824



CDFW News



CDFW Awards \$40 Million for Ecosystem and Watershed Restoration and Protection Projects

December 20, 2016

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) today announced that it is awarding \$40 million in Proposition 1 funds for water quality, river and watershed protection, and restoration projects for vital waterways throughout California.

In the second of ten planned annual grant cycles, CDFW has selected 44 projects to receive funding from its Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Prop 1) Restoration Grant Programs. The awards, totaling \$40 million, include approximately \$28 million awarded through the Watershed Restoration Grant Program to projects of statewide importance outside of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and approximately \$12 million awarded through the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program to projects that directly benefit the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

“In year two of our Prop 1 grant program we continue to support on-the-ground actions that meet the objectives of the California Water Action Plan, as well as planning activities that set the stage for future restoration statewide,” CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham said. “We have made great progress in the first two grant cycles and we cannot wait to get more multi-benefit projects done throughout the state.”

Each of these multi-benefit projects addresses the priorities outlined in the 2016 Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs Solicitation and the [California Water Action Plan](#). Priorities include: Protecting and restoring mountain meadow ecosystems, managing headwaters for multiple benefits, protecting and restoring anadromous fish habitat, and protecting and restoring coastal wetland ecosystems.

Projects approved for funding through the Watershed Restoration Grant Program include:

- Lost Coast Redwood and Salmon Initiative Phase 2 (2016) – Indian Creek Conservation Easement (\$1,400,00 to Northcoast Regional Land Trust);
- Humboldt Bay Regional Invasive *Spartina* Eradication Project (\$450,000 to Redwood Community Action Agency);
- Modoc Plateau Meadows Assessment and Restoration Design Project (\$253,309 to California Trout, Inc.);
- Dry Creek Meadow Restoration (\$290,000 to Truckee River Watershed Council);
- Stanford-Vina Fish Passage Planning and Design Project (\$418,408 to Trout Unlimited);
- San Vicente Creek Watershed *Clematis vitalba* Control Project (\$1,141,555 to Sempervirens Fund);
- Carman Watershed Restoration Project, Phase II (\$589,732 to Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District);
- Lagunitas Creek Floodplain and Riparian Restoration Project (\$935,467 to Salmon Protection and Watershed Network);
- Napa River Restoration Oakville to Oak Knoll Project (\$200,000 to Napa County Department of Public Works);
- Protecting and Restoring Wilderness Meadows in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (\$86,340 to American Rivers);
- Oroville Wildlife Area Flood Stage Reduction and Restoration Project (\$2,509,700 to Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency);
- Dennett Dam Removal (\$363,183 to Tuolumne River Trust);
- Marshall Ranch Conservation Easement – 2016 (\$5,012,125 to California Rangeland Trust);
- Middle Branch of Russian Gulch – Forbearance Agreement/Conservation Easement (\$400,000 to Sonoma Land Trust);
- Matilija Dam Removal 65 Percent Design Planning Project (\$3,300,504 to County of Ventura);
- A Watershed Approach to Enhancing Habitat for Salmonids in the San Lorenzo River Watershed (\$705,094 to Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County);
- Green Valley Watershed Coho Migration Enhancement Project – Design Phase (\$376,895 to North Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council);
- McInnis Marsh Restoration Project (\$550,000 to Marin County Parks);
- South Canal Diversion Fish Screen (\$829,129 to Yuba County Water Agency);
- Thompson Meadow Restoration and Water Budget Evaluation Project (\$196,784 to Plumas Corporation);
- Freshwater Creek Off-Channel Habitat Restoration Project-Regulatory Compliance (\$124,701 to Redwood Community Action Agency);
- Mill Creek Barrier Removal and Riparian Restoration Project in Talmage (\$383,939 to Mendocino County Resource Conservation District);
- Non-Natal Habitat Enhancement Planning For ESA-Listed Salmonids in the Humboldt Bay Watershed (\$179,316 to Pacific Coast Fish, Wildlife and Wetlands Restoration Association);
- Van Norden Meadow Restoration Project (\$1,108,657 to South Yuba River Citizens League);
- Laguna-Mark West Creek Watershed Master Restoration Planning Project (\$517,000 to Sonoma County Water Agency);

- CICC Packer Ranch Fish Screen Project and Pump Station Upgrade (\$467,611 to Family Water Alliance, Inc.);
- Fish Passage Design at Interstate 5 Bridge Array on Trabuco Creek (\$383,890 to California Trout, Inc.);
- Salmon River Floodplain Restoration Planning and NEPA Analysis (\$225,340 to Salmon River Restoration Council);
- Grayson Restoration Planning (\$188,679 to River Partners);
- Planning for Priority Meadow Restoration in Lahontan Basin Watersheds (\$346,352 to American Rivers);
- DCWC Lower Deer Creek Flood and Ecosystem Improvement Project, Phase 1 (\$1,950,289 to Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy);
- Rancho Cañada Carmel River Protection and Instream Flow Enhancement Project (\$1,450,000 to Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District);
- Developing Restoration Strategies for Hydrologic Connectivity in Williams Creek (\$291,594 to Humboldt County Resource Conservation District);
- Restoration of Priority Meadows in the Walker Watershed (\$235,757 to American Rivers);
- Cottonwood Canyon Acquisition Project (\$507,000 to Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy);
- Auburn Ravine-Hemphill Diversion Assessment Phase 2 (\$177,042 to Nevada Irrigation District); and
- Hat Creek Enhancement Project – 2016 (\$196,564 to Fall River Resource Conservation District).

Projects approved for funding through the Delta Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program include:

- Paradise Cut Flood and Conservation Easement Acquisition (\$2,035,000 to American Rivers);
- Contaminant Effects on Two California Fish Species and the Food Web That Supports Them (\$1,701,829 to The Regents of the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine);
- Impact of Spatial and Temporal Dynamics of Water Flows on Migratory Behavior of Chinook Salmon Smolts in the South Delta (\$1,510,723 to Regents of the University of California, Davis, Agriculture and Natural Resources);
- Investigating the Factors that Affect Age-0 Longfin Smelt Abundance, Distribution, and Recruitment in the Upper SF Estuary (\$330,811 to Metropolitan Water District of Southern California);
- Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Habitat and Drainage Improvement Project Construction (\$4,852,766 to Ducks Unlimited);
- Impact of Climate Variability on Surface Water Quality: Cyanobacteria and Contaminants (\$891,341 to The Regents of the University of California, Davis, Aquatic Toxicology Program); and
- Lower Walnut Creek Restoration Project (\$537,457 to Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District).

CDFW plans to release the next Prop 1 solicitation in late spring or early summer 2017. Prior to its release, CDFW will host a series of workshops to engage potential project proponents. CDFW hopes to provide additional outreach to certain regions of the state that have submitted fewer proposals, particularly in Southern California.

At that time, general information about CDFW's Proposition 1 Restoration Grant Programs, as well as a schedule of locations and dates for workshops will be available at www.wildlife.ca.gov/grants.

Funding for these projects comes from the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act 2014 (Proposition 1) bond funds, a portion of which are allocated annually through the California State Budget Act. More information about Proposition 1 can be found [here](#).

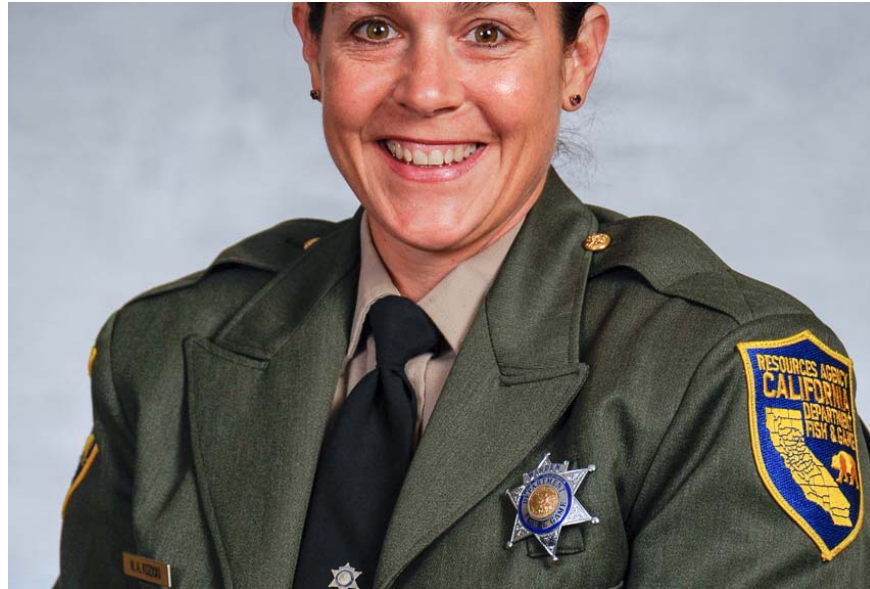
Media Contacts:

Matt Wells, Watershed Restoration Grants Branch, (916) 445-1285

Jordan Traverso, CDFW Communications, (916) 654-9937



CDFW News



Warden Nicole Kozicki Recognized as CDFW Wildlife Officer of the Year

December 8, 2016

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has selected Warden Nicole Kozicki as the 2017 Wildlife Officer of the Year. Kozicki has honorably represented CDFW in the San Francisco Bay Area and its communities for 27 years.

Kozicki's ability to handle complex, large-scale investigations — many of which have involved harm to threatened and endangered species — has earned her a reputation as an expert in the field of environmental crimes. Throughout her career, Kozicki has led hundreds of streambed alteration and pollution cases to successful prosecution. Her tireless pursuit of the truth has resulted in hundreds of acres of mitigated lands being preserved in perpetuity and has generated millions of dollars in fines. Fellow wildlife officers as well as investigators from local, state and federal agencies often seek her investigation expertise.

Among the greatest of Kozicki's accomplishments is her leadership of an investigation related to illegal development practices that threatened two endangered species – the California tiger salamander and the red-legged frog – at Dublin Ranch in Alameda County. Conducted jointly with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the three-year investigation uncovered numerous violations of state and federal law, including egregious grading and illegal stream alterations,

habitat destruction and falsification of permitting documents. Kozicki provided testimony in state court for two full weeks.

The developer eventually pled no contest to charges of submitting fraudulent documents in an attempt to avoid development requirements. The terms of the plea agreement between the developer, the California Attorney General's Office and CDFW included almost \$1.1 million in fines and restitution, preservation of 107 acres of land in Contra Costa County (known as the Brown Ranch) in a conservation easement and \$300,000 put into an account to manage the property.

“Warden Kozicki has an extraordinary capability and reputation for investigating cases that affect not only California’s fish and wildlife, but the very habitat where those fish and wildlife live,” said David Bess, Chief of CDFW’s Law Enforcement Division. “The benefits of her investigations will be measured for generations to come.”

Media Contact:

Lt. Chris Stoots, CDFW Law Enforcement, (916) 651-9982