

**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.

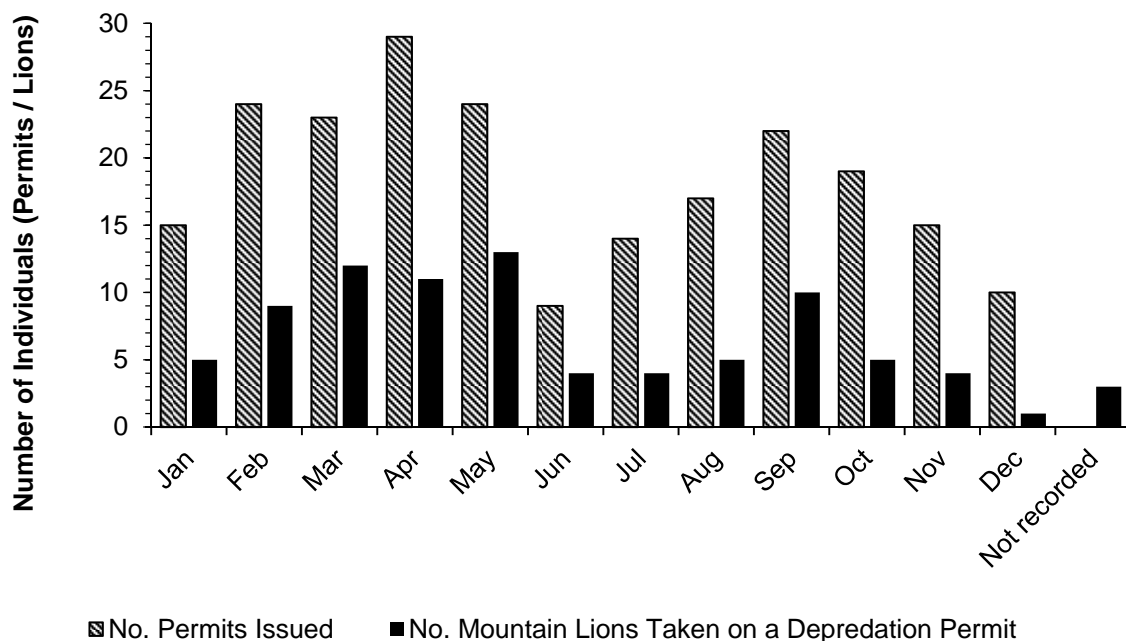


Figure 2. Total number of depredation permits issued in 2016 and the type of property damage reported (i.e. animal(s) reported to have been taken by a mountain lion). Note: These numbers are based upon the number of incidents and not the total number of animals claimed to have been taken in a single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

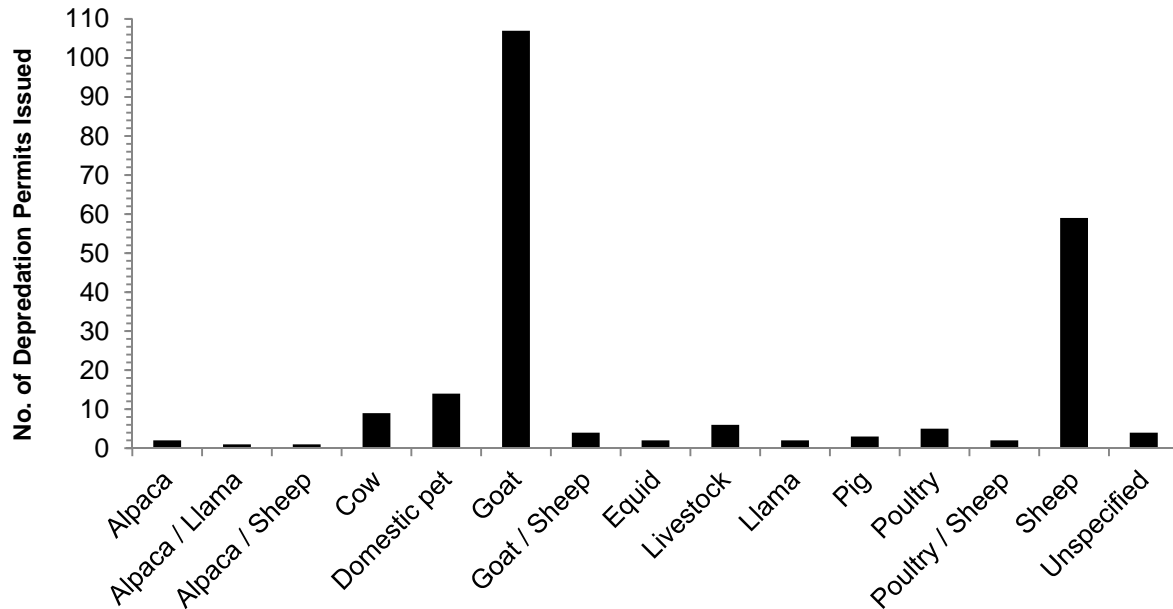


Table 1. Sex of depredating mountain lions necropsied by CDFW in 2016.

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

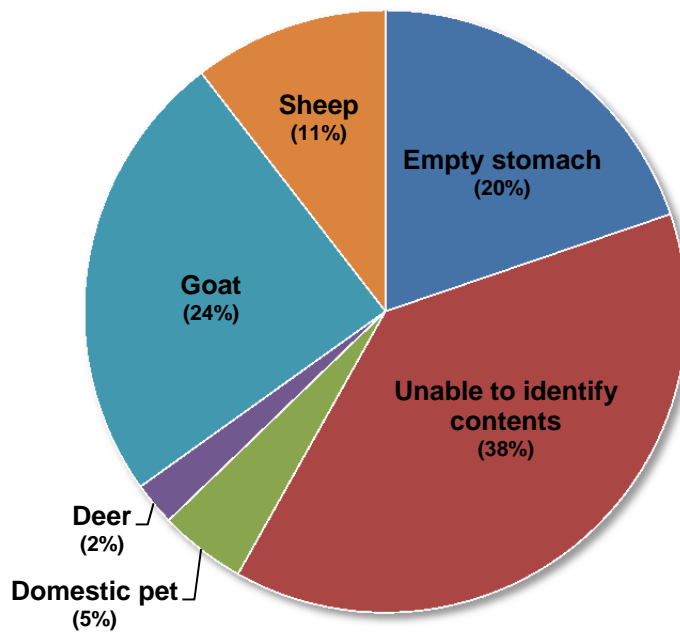
² Sub Adult: 13-23 months

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.