

**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 2015**

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

Summary

Based on Department of Fish and Wildlife depredation submission records for 2015, the Department issued at least 256 depredation permits, resulting in at least 107 mountain lions reported being taken. Of those 107 animals, 83 were necropsied (77.6%). The fate of the remaining 25 lions is not known at this time.

The number of mountain lions killed under the authority of a depredation permit and necropsied in the calendar year 2015 can be summarized in the following statements, and supported in Tables 1-3. During 2015, 61% of depredating mountain lions the Department performed necropsies on were male, 37% were female, and the sex was not recorded for one lion (1%) (Table 1). Of the necropsied lions, 70% were considered adults, on the basis of lions being aged at 24 months or older; 11% were considered sub-adults; 6% were juveniles on the basis of being aged 0-12 months (Table 2). The North-Central Region had the highest rate of depredating lions that were necropsied, with 28% of all necropsied lions occurring in this area (Table 3).

The majority of necropsied mountain lion stomach contents contained domestic animals (52%); however, deer and other various contents were observed as well (Figure 1).

Table 1. Sex of depredating mountain lions necropsied by CDFW in 2015.

Sex	Total by Sex
Male	51
Female	31
Not Recorded	1

Table 2. Ages of depredating mountain lions necropsied by CDFW in 2015.

Age Class	Total by Age Class
Juvenile ¹	9
Sub Adult ²	9
Adult ³	58
Not Recorded	7

¹ Juvenile: 0-12 months

² Sub Adult: 13-23 months

³ Adult: 24 months and older

Table 3. Geographic distribution of depredating mountain lions necropsied by CDFW in 2015.

CDFW Region	Total by Region
Northern	22
North Central	23
Bay Delta	9
Central	21
South Coast	5
Inland Desert	1
Not Recorded	2

Figure 1. Stomach contents of depredating mountain lions necropsied by CDFW in 2015.

