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State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Memorandum

Date: February 26, 2014

To: Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: Mountain Lion Necropsy Report (2013)

Please find the attached report on mountain lion necropsies performed by the Department during 2013. 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 Dr. Eric Loft, Chief, Wildlife Branch, at (916) 445-3555.

Attachments: Mountain Lion Necropsy Report (2013)

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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 (2013)

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

Findings

According to Wildlife Branch depredation submission records (which are as yet incomplete for calendar year 2013), the Department issued 148 depredation permits, resulting in at least 62 mountain lions reported being taken. Of those 62 animals, 28 were necropsied. The Department estimates that there may be six lions awaiting necropsy at the Bay-Delta Region. The fate of the remaining 28 (62-28-6 = 28) lions is not known at this time. It is likely they were not recovered from the field.

The number of mountain lions killed under the authority of a depredation permit and necropsied in the calendar year 2013 can be summarized in the following statements, and supported in Tables 1-3 and Figure 1. During 2013, 57% of depredating mountain lions the Department performed necropsies on were male, and 43% were female (Table 1). Of these lions, 39% were considered adults, on the basis of lions being aged at 4 years or younger; 50% were considered sub-adults; and 11% did not have the age recorded on the report (Table 2). California Department of Fish and Wildlife North Central and Central Regions had the highest rate of depredating lions, with 36% and 43% of depredation incidents occurring in these areas, respectively (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 necropsied mountain lions

Sex	Count
Male	16
Female	12
Unrecorded	0
Total	**28**

Table 2. Necropsied mountain lions by age class; lions > 4 years old are considered adults

Age Class	Count
Adult	11
Sub-adult	14
Unrecorded	3
Total	**28**

Table 3. Necropsied mountain lions by CDFW Region

Region	Count
Northern	3
North Central	10
Bay Delta	0
Central	12
South Coast	2
Inland Desert	0
Unrecorded	1
Total	**28**
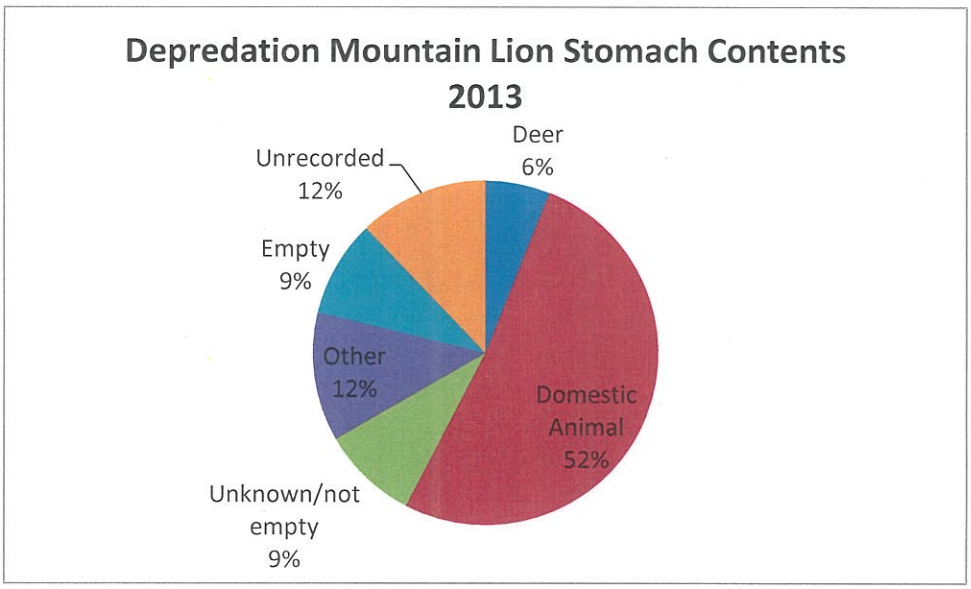
Figure 1. Stomach contents of necropsied depredation mountain lions