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Department of Fish and Wildlife

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## Memorandum

Date: ~~January 22, 2013~~  
*Feb. 1*

To: Sonke Mastrup  
Executive Director  
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham  
Director



Subject: **Mountain Lion Necropsy Report (2006 – 2012)**

Please find the attached report on mountain lion necropsies performed by the Department over the past seven years (2006 – 2012). 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.

### Attachment

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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 (2006 – 2012)**

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

## Summary

The number of mountain lions killed under the authority of a depredation permit and necropsied from calendar years 2006-2012 are summarized in Tables 1 through 3. During this time, 57% of the animals necropsied were male, reflecting the male bias that generally results from more males being killed in association with depredation incidents. Slightly more than 77% of the mountain lions necropsied were adults (>3 yrs. old; Table 2). The necropsied animals were predominantly from the western Sierra Nevada Mountains and northern Coast Ranges of California (Table 3).

Of all 130 necropsied mountain lions, the stomach contents of 53% were either unidentifiable or unrecorded. However, of the identifiable and recorded stomach contents, 78% were either domestic livestock or pets, 48% were empty and 22% contained various wildlife or vegetation (Figure 1).

**Table 1. Count of necropsied mountain lions by sex and year.**

YEAR	SEX			Grand Total
	MALE	FEMALE	UNRECORDED	
2006	13	15	0	28
2007	28	13	1	42
2008	10	6	0	16
2009	4	5	0	9
2010	10	3	0	13
2011	5	10	0	15
2012	3	4	0	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>130</b>

**Table 2. Count of necropsied mountain lions by age class and year; lions >3 yrs. old are considered adults.**

Year	Age Class			Grand Total
	Adult	Sub-adult	Unrecorded	
2006	21	7	0	28
2007	26	8	8	42
2008	10	2	4	16
2009	4	1	4	9
2010	9	1	3	13
2011	10	4	1	15
2012	5	2	0	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>130</b>

**Table 3. Count of necropsied mountain lions by Department Region and year.**

Year	Northern Region	North Central Region	Bay Delta Region	Central Region	South Coast Region	Inland Desert Region	Unrecorded	Grand Total
2006	2	2	14	7	2	0	1	28
2007	3	0	10	27	1	0	1	42
2008	0	0	6	10	0	0	0	16
2009	2	0	6	1	0	0	0	9
2010	1	1	8	2	1	0	0	13
2011	0	2	2	9	0	2	0	15
2012	0	3	3	1	0	0	0	7
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>130</b>

**Figure 1. Stomach content of necropsied mountain lions. Domestic animals include livestock and companion animals.**

