

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-10. Taking Cougar.

R657-10-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking and pursuing cougar.

(2) Specific dates, areas, number of permits, limits, and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar.

R657-10-2. Definitions.

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23-13-2.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Canned hunt" means that a cougar is treed, cornered, held at bay or its ability to escape is otherwise restricted to allow a person who was not a member of the initial hunting party to arrive and take the cougar.

(b) "Compensation" means anything of economic value in excess of \$100 that is paid, loaned, granted, given, donated, or transferred to a dog handler for or in consideration of pursuing cougar for any purpose.

(c) "Cougar" means *Puma concolor*, commonly known as mountain lion, lion, puma, panther or catamount.

(d) "Cougar pursuit permit" means a permit that authorizes a person to pursue cougar during designated seasons.

(e) "Dog handler" means the person in the field that is responsible for transporting, releasing, tracking, controlling, managing, training, commanding and retrieving the dogs involved in the pursuit. The owner of the dogs is presumed the dog handler when the owner is in the field during pursuit.

(f) "Evidence of sex" means the sex organs of a cougar, including a penis, scrotum or vulva.

(g) "Green pelt" means the untanned hide or skin of any cougar.

(h) "Harvest objective" means an identified limit on the number of cougars that may be harvested during the season on a particular unit.

(i) "Harvest objective permit" means any permit that can be obtained without entering a drawing and is valid on all units during non-limited entry seasons. A person may use dogs to hunt cougars with this permit.

(j) "Immediate family member" means a livestock owner's spouse, child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepchild and grandchild.

(k) "Kitten" means a cougar that has obvious spots on its sides or its back or has obvious leg barring coloration.

(l) "Limited entry season" means any season listed in the hunt tables of the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar, which is identified as limited entry and a person must draw a permit to hunt that season.

(m) "Limited entry permit" means any permit obtained for a limited entry season by any means, including conservation permits and sportsman permits. Limited entry permits may only be used on the specific unit they are issued for during the limited entry

season. Limited entry permits may be used on any unit open to cougar hunting once the limited entry season for which the permit is valid ends.

(n) "Location of Harvest" means the exact location that the cougar is killed. GPS coordinates are preferred.

(o) "Private lands" means any lands that are not public lands, excluding Indian trust lands.

(p) "Public lands" means any lands owned by the state, a political subdivision or independent entity of the state, or the United States, excluding Indian trust lands, that are open to the public for purposes of engaging in pursuit.

(q) "Pursue" means to chase, tree, corner or hold a cougar at bay.

(r) "Spot-and-stalk permit" means a cougar permit available over the counter for seasons and units designated by the Division Director as per Statute 23-16-10. A hunter who obtains this permit may not use dogs to take a cougar.

(s) "Predator management unit" means a unit managed under direction of DWR W1AG-4 to reduce cougar densities. This type of unit does not have a limit on the number of cougars that may be harvested during the season.

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(t) "Trail Camera" means a device that is not held or manually operated by a person and is used to capture images, video, or location data of wildlife using heat or motion to trigger the device.

(u) "Waiting period" means a specified period of time that a person who has obtained a cougar permit must wait before applying for any other limited entry cougar season.

~~(u)~~v "Written permission" means written authorization from the owner or person in charge to enter upon private lands and must include:

- (i) the name and signature of the owner or person in charge;
- (ii) the address and phone number of the owner or person in charge;
- (iii) the name of the dog handler given permission to enter the private lands;
- (iv) a brief description of the pursuit activity authorized;
- (v) the appropriate dates; and
- (vi) a general description of the property.

R657-10-9. Prohibited Methods.

(1) Cougar may be taken or pursued only during open seasons and using methods prescribed in this rule and the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar. Otherwise, under the Wildlife Resources Code, it is unlawful for any person to pursue, possess, capture, kill, injure, drug, rope, trap, snare or in any way harm or transport cougar.

(2)(a) A person may not pursue a single cougar in repeated pursuits such that it renders the cougar physically unable to escape.

(b) After a cougar has been pursued, chased, treed, cornered or held at bay, a person may not, in any manner, restrict or hinder the animal's ability to escape.

(c) A person must make reasonable efforts to call dogs off of a cougar that has been cornered or held at bay.

(3) A person may not engage in a canned hunt.

(4) A person may not take any wildlife from an airplane or any other airborne vehicle or device or any motorized terrestrial or aquatic vehicle, including snowmobiles and other recreational vehicles.

(5) Electronic locating equipment may not be used to locate cougars wearing electronic radio devices.

(6)(a) A trail camera that can only store an image, picture or video inside the device, and which does not have the capability to utilize cellular, Wi-Fi or satellite technology to transmit images or video for remote viewing, is permitted year-round.

(b) A person shall not:

(i) Place, maintain or use a trail camera or non-handheld device to capture images or video, that utilizes cellular, Wi-Fi or satellite technology, or comparable technology capable of providing real-time media from a device in the field, to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of cougar between July 31 and January 31;

(ii) Engage in the sale or purchase of trail camera media, including images, video, location, time, or date data to aid in the take or attempted take of cougar; or

(iii) Engage in the sale, purchase, distribution or storage of media, including image, video, location, time, or date data, collected from a device identified in subsection (i) to aid in the take or attempted take of cougar.

(c) the prohibition on the use of trail cameras does not apply to:

(i) Private landowners monitoring or protecting their property from trespass;

(ii) Monitoring active agricultural operations; and

(iii) Municipalities participating in the Urban Deer Program.

(d) Wi-Fi, satellite or cellular transmitting cameras or similar technology on property cannot be used to take, attempt to take, or aid in the take or attempted take of cougar between July 31 and January 31.

KEY: wildlife, cougar, game laws

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: October 25, 2021

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Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-14-18; 23-14-19