Predators & Policies

Marc Kenyon
Senior Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marc.Kenyon@Wildlife.ca.gov

Overview

• Mountain Lions
  – Legal History in California
  – CDFW Roles/Responsibilities
  – Laws, Regulations, Policies

• Coyotes
  – Legal Status
  – Legal Options

• Local Contacts
Legal Status of California Mountain Lions

- 1907-1963: Bountied Predator
- 1963-1969: Nongame Mammal
- 1969-1972: Game Mammal
- 1972-1986: Protected Mammal
- 1986-1990: Game Mammal (no hunting)
- 1990-Now: Specially Protected Mammal

General Department Actions

- Responsibilities (generally)
  - WLM Staff
    - Potential Human Conflict
    - Depredation response
    - Recurrent nuisance activity
    - Preventative measures
  - LED Staff
    - Potential Human Conflict
    - Public Safety Response
    - Attack Response
- Both respond to injured/orphaned wildlife
Laws, Regulations, Policies

• Laws set by State Legislature
  – “By the People”
  – Fish and Game Code
• Regulations established by Fish and Game Commission
  – In consultation with CDFW
  – CA Code of Regulations, Title 14
• CDFW Policy set by Department Staff

Laws Pertaining to “Conflict” Lions

• Fish and Game Code 4802-4809
  – Lions may be taken if:
    • Posing immediate threat to human safety
    • Caught in the act of injuring livestock and pets
      – 72 hours to report and carcass must be made available
    • Permitted by CDFW upon request by property owner incurring damage
General Depredation Actions

- Department personnel verify damage
- If requested by the landowner, a depredation permit **must** be issued
- Permits issued through the WIR system

Regulations

- California Code of Regulations, Title 14
  - Sec 401
    - How to apply for depredation permit
  - Sec 402
    - Dept has 48 hours to complete investigation from time of report
    - If evidence supports lion, CDFW SHALL ISSUE permit
    - Permit valid for 10 days
      - May be renewed
    - Pursuit begins >1 mile from damage and continues <10 miles
Mountain Lion Policy Overview

• Four General Interaction Types
  – Sighting
  – Depredation
  – Potential Human Conflict
  – Public Safety
Sightings

- A report (confirmed or unconfirmed) of an observation
- Document in WIR w/in 24 hrs
- Categorize and assess if further action required
- Volunteers or seasonal staff

Lion Depredation
Lion Depredation

- Dept verification required
- No multiple animal actions
- Carcass Retrieval for Necropsy
  - Coordinate with WIL
- Oral Authorization OK
- Stress Preventative Action

Mobile Pen

Safe Livestock Enclosure

Mobile Pen

- [List of items]
- [Diagram of mobile pen]
- [Acknowledgments]
Permanent Enclosure

- Unusual location, unusual behavior
- Reasonably perceived to have the potential to cause severe injury or death
- When there’s time to think about options
  - Not an immediate threat
- Response Guidance Team
- Relocate, Permanent Placement, Less-lethal, Rehabilitate (?)
Public Safety (no attack)

- Secure the Scene
- Humanely kill the animal
- Notify Dispatch & RGT
- Acquire information for report and enter into WIR
Attack

Physical contact between a lion and a human resulting in injury or death

Public Safety (Attack Response)

- Secure the Scene, Medical Attention for victim
- Notify Dispatch
- Initiate ICS
- Treat area a crime scene
- Locate and kill animal ASAP
- Do not shoot in head (Rabies Test)
- Carnivore Attack Sampling Kit
Coyotes

• Nongame Mammal
  – Taken at any time in any number
• Sport Take requires hunting license
• Depredation Take at any time in any manner
  – Raw furs may not be sold

Public Information

• Department Website
  – http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/lion/
• Keep Me Wild Campaign
  – www.keepmewild.org
  – What to Do
    • Posters
    • Brochures
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<th>Unit Biologist</th>
<th>USDA Wildlife Services</th>
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<td>(707) 944-5500;</td>
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<td>Stacy Martell</td>
<td>(805) 538-9790</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>San Luis Obispo</td>
<td>(559) 243-4005, press 4</td>
<td>Bob Stafford</td>
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