

Mountain lion – HD 322



Draft Changes for 2022-2023 Hunting Regulations:

Combine Hunting Districts 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327 and 330 into one district, HD 322.

- Quota: 12
- Female sub-quota: 4

Biological Implications:

The primary justification for the recommendation is the statewide regulations simplification effort. The HD expansion would align mountain lion HD 322 with the proposed deer/elk HD 322. From a biological perspective, the HD combination expands the HD to an area that more appropriately aligns with the scale mountain lions use the landscape.

Social Implications:

The recommendation is expected to generate some questions and concerns about over harvest of mountain lions within portions of the HD. Because mountain lions and mountain lion habitat are well distributed across the proposed expanded HD, this is unlikely to occur. Some hunters are expected to be concerned about lion harvest across the larger area facilitating season closures prior to them harvesting a lion in an area they hunt. This may happen occasionally but can be mitigated through periodic quota adjustments.

District biologist:

Dean Waltee

406-842-7407 • dwaltee@mt.gov