GENERAL STATEWIDE SEASON: Jan. 1 - Dec. 31 or until Zone Mortality Quotas have been met, whichever occurs first.

OPEN AREA: Entire state is open. However, specific Quota Zones (defined in table below) will be closed if mortality quotas for the year are met in that zone. Please note additional closure areas listed on pages 80-85 that may affect your hunt area.

ADDITIONAL COUGAR (Requires an Additional cougar tag): Entire state is open Jan. 1 - Dec. 31 or until Zone Mortality Quotas have been met, whichever occurs first. An "additional" tag may be purchased throughout the season; however, hunters must purchase the general season tag (see tag sale deadlines on page 7) to be eligible for the additional tag.

BAG LIMIT: One cougar per tag, except that it is unlawful to take spotted kittens or females with spotted kittens.

HUNTING REGULATIONS: No person shall use dogs for the taking or pursuit of cougar. It is unlawful to hunt with a centerfire or muzzleloading rifle without a valid (used or unused) deer or elk tag for certain time periods and areas; see page 22. Any cougar taken must be presented at a Department of Fish and Wildlife office within 10 days of the kill to be checked and marked. The person who took the cougar is responsible to have it presented for check-in. The hide with skull and proof of sex attached are required. Hide and skull must be unfrozen when presented for check-in. Hunters are also required to submit the reproductive tract of any female cougar taken (see illustration on page 26). Check-in must occur during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday). Please call ahead to make an appointment. When the required parts are presented at check-in, information that must be provided includes: 1) date of harvest and location of harvest including Wildlife Management Unit, and 2) complete hunter information including tag number as found on the cougar tag. Hunter information is on the cougar tag; the cougar tag, a copy of the tag, or a completed "Wildlife Transfer Record Form" (page 87) are alternatives for providing information. Hunters must still complete mandatory reporting via the internet (www.odfw.com/resources/hunting/reporting) or call toll free at 1-866-947-ODFW(6339). See page 23 for more information.

COUGAR QUOTA MORTALITY ZONES

Refer to WMU boundary descriptions on pages 73-77 for exact boundary locations of each Wildlife Management Unit.

HUNT ZONE A, COAST/NORTH CASCADES: All of wildlife management units 10-12, 14-18, 20, 24-27, 39, 41 and 42. There are specific weapon restrictions in the parts of the hunt area. See pages 83-85.

HUNT ZONE B, SOUTHWEST CASCADES: All of wildlife management units 19, 21-23 and 28-31.

HUNT ZONE C, SOUTHEAST CASCADES: All of wildlife management units 32-35 and 75-77.

HUNT ZONE D, COLUMBIA BASIN: All of wildlife management units 38, 40 and 43-45.

HUNT ZONE E, BLUE MOUNTAINS: All of wildlife management units 37 and 46-64.

HUNT ZONE F, SOUTHEAST OREGON: All of wildlife management units 36 and 65-74.

MORTALITY QUOTAS: Hunt zones will be closed early to cougar hunting if individual zone mortality quotas are reached. For information on quotas that may have been reached, contact an ODFW office near you.

Cougar hunters are reminded that it is mandatory to provide the reproductive tract of any female cougar taken. The reproductive tract provides valuable information on the number and frequency of kittens born annually in Oregon and is a critical part of ODFW's cougar population models. Carrying a clean, empty sandwich bag while hunting, and keeping the sample cooled or frozen in an ice chest or refrigerator after collection, is an easy way to maintain the quality of this important sample for the department. Reproductive tracts may be delivered to any ODFW field office when you check in your cougar.

Find Great Hunting in Oregon Oregonhuntingmap.com

ODFW has a new hunting map to help you find your next spot. With new features you can:

- Search by species
- Search by location
- Show landownership
- Show property boundaries
- Find Lat/Long coordinates
- Show wildlife management units
- And more!

Because the map is based on Google Maps, you'll be able to scout areas for habitat and terrain. Before heading out to the field, check out Oregonhuntingmap.com.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

“AVOID THE FEE” MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIRED SEE PAGE 23
**COUGAR TARGET AREAS TO HELP BIG GAME**

ODFW removed 291* cougars in Heppner, Steens Mtn, Ukiah, Warner, and Wenaha Units to benefit deer or elk populations (*does not include cougar taken by hunters or on damage complaints).

The most dramatic results have been in the Heppner and Ukiah Target Areas:
- Elk calf survival doubled
- Ukiah elk population grew by 500 since 2010
- Heppner elk population grew by 2,200 since 2007

Wildlife managers were not able to measure a population-level response in deer and elk in Steens Mtn, Warner and Wenaha Units at this time.

Additional cougar target areas are being considered for 2015.

**COUGAR QUOTA INCREASE**

- Statewide cougar quota raised to 970, a 25% increase (beginning 2015)

**COUGAR RESEARCH TO SUPPORT MANAGEMENT**

The ODFW research team has recently published peer-reviewed research on cougar kill rates and prey selection in northeast Oregon, cougar survival rates, and estimating cougar densities using dogs.

What researchers found in northeast Oregon:

- Deer and elk made up 95% of the animals preyed on by cougar. Of the deer and elk kills examined:
  - More than 2/3 (69%) were deer, just under 1/3 (31%) were elk
  - Almost ½ (47%) of the deer killed were fawns, ¾ (75%) of the elk killed were calves
  - On average, an adult cougar kills one deer or elk per week. (Oregon has an estimated 4,000 adults out of a total cougar population of 6,000.)
- High levels of hunter harvest can reduce local cougar populations.
- Benefits of target areas can last for several years.

Results of this work can be found at: dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/research/

**Does not include cougar taken by hunters or on damage complaints.**

**Steve Cherry, District Wildlife Biologist**