

# Oregon Cougar Management Plan *Draft Update*

**ODFW Commission Meeting  
August 4, 2017**

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# Presentation Outline

- Plan Evaluation
- Review Process
- Plan Draft Update



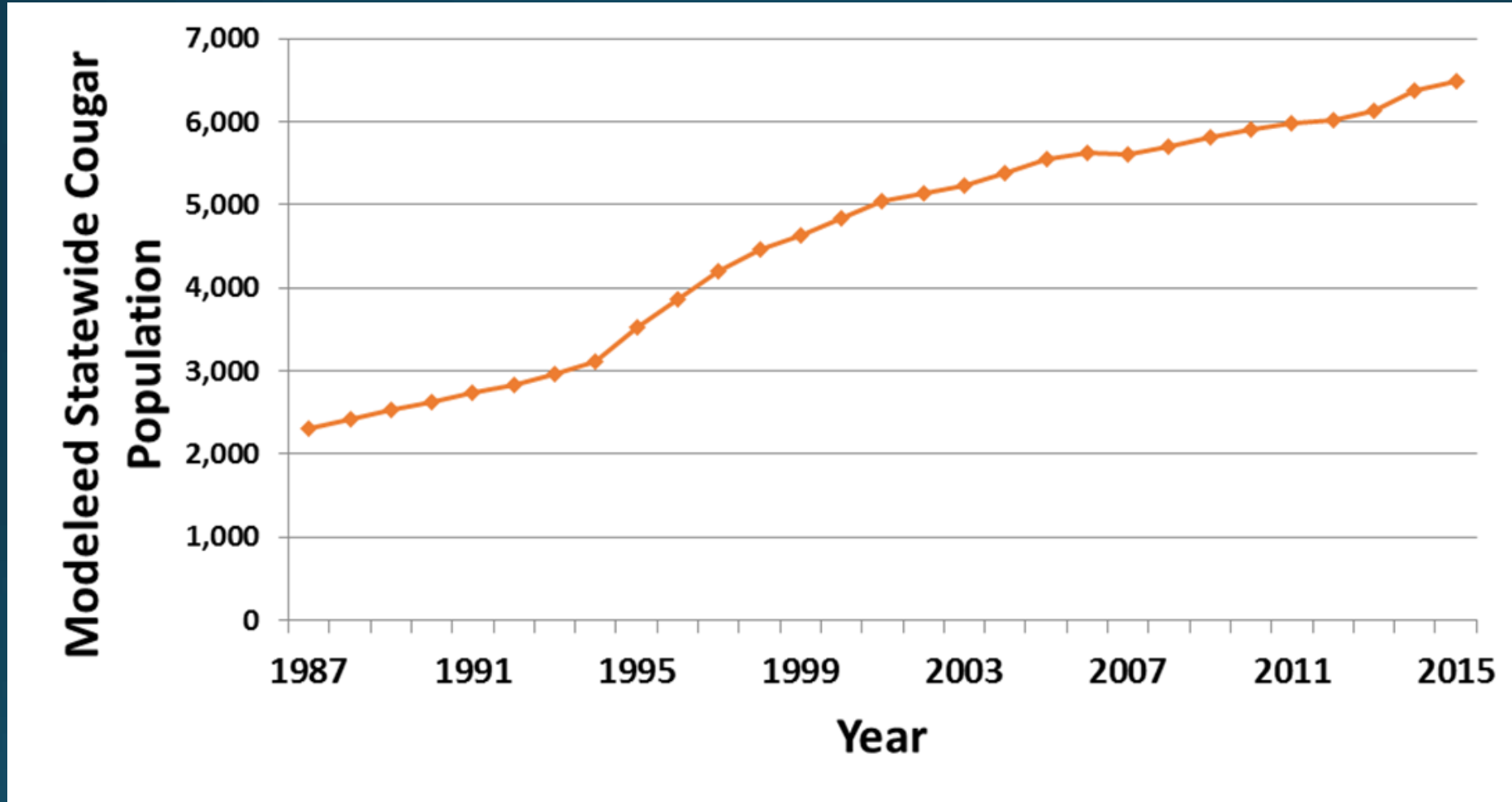
# Plan Evaluation



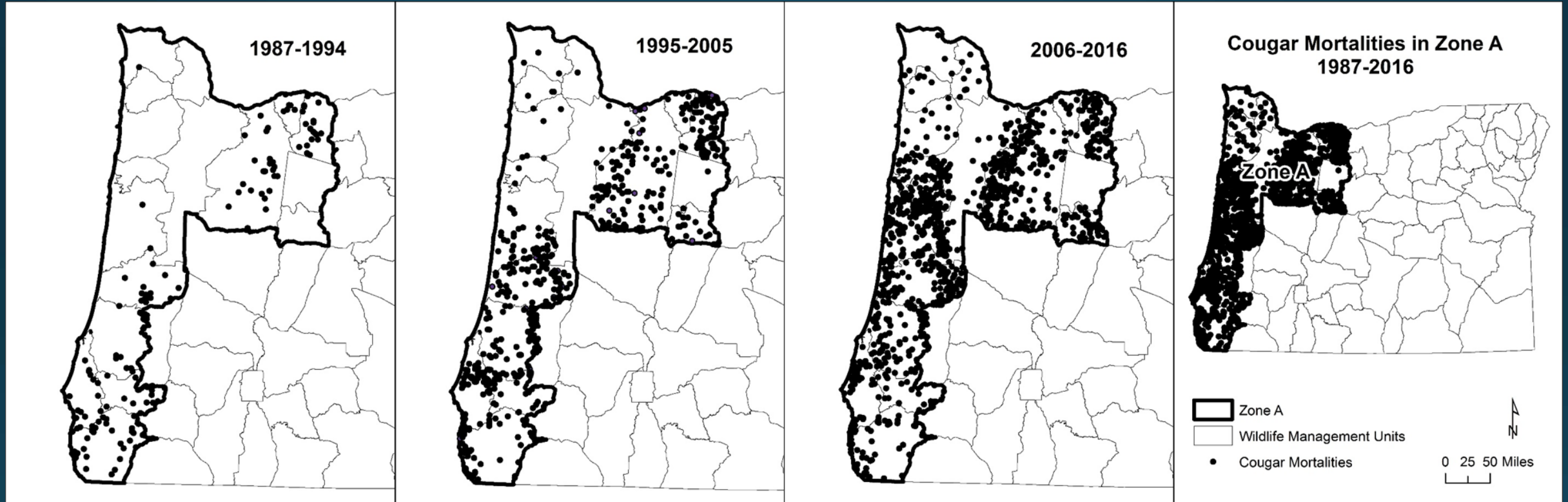
- Plan Adoption April 2006
- Completed Oregon Research
- 10+ years of biological data collection

Oregon Cougar Research Projects	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Wenaha-Sled Springs-Mt Emily	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow									
Sled Springs	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow									
Toketee/Steamboat		Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow											
Mt Emily									Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow			Yellow	Yellow	Yellow

# Population Trends



# Changes in Abundance, Distribution





# Review Process

- **Commission Meetings**
  - **April 2016**
    - **Stakeholder Panels**
  - **October 2016**
    - **Public Testimony**
- **Public & Tribal Correspondence**
- **Development of Draft Update**



# Current Plan

Chapter I- Introduction

Chapter II- Life History of  
Cougars

Chapter III- Information on  
Oregon Cougars

Chapter IV- Oregon  
Management History

Chapter V- Objectives

Chapter VI- Adaptive  
Management

Chapter VII- Economics

Chapter VIII- Literature Cited

# Draft Update

Chapter I- Introduction

Chapter II- Information on  
Oregon Cougars

Chapter III- Objectives

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# Current Plan

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# Draft Update

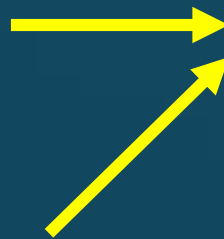
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## *Chapter II- Information on Oregon Cougars*

### **Notable Additions, Updates**

- **Genetics - NEW**
- **Density**
- **Interactions with Ungulates**
- **Interactions with Other Carnivores - NEW**
- **Habitat**
- **Hunting and Hunter Harvest**



## *Chapter II- Information on Oregon Cougars*

### **Notable Additions, Updates**

- **Survival**
- **Population Growth Rates - NEW**
- **Oregon Cougar Research**
- **Oregon Publications/Reports**

# Chapter III- Cougar Management Objectives



- **Draft Update Objectives continue to maintain healthy populations, reduce conflict, and manage cougars in concert with other game mammals**
- **Objectives utilize Adaptive Management**
- **Propose reduction from five to four Objectives**
- **Two Objectives remain mostly unchanged**



## *2006 Cougar Plan Objectives*

- Objective 1: ODFW will manage for a cougar population that is at or above the 1994 level of approximately 3,000 cougars statewide.

## *Draft Update Proposal*

- Objective 1: ODFW will **manage for cougar populations that are not to fall below 3,000 cougars statewide.**

# 2006 Cougar Plan Objectives\*



- **Objective 2:** ODFW will proactively manage cougar-human safety/pet conflicts as measured by cougars taken as a result of human safety/pet complaints.
- **Objective 3:** ODFW will proactively manage cougar-livestock conflicts as measured by non-hunting mortalities of cougars taken as a result of livestock damage complaints.
- **Objective 4:** ODFW will proactively manage cougar populations in a manner compatible and consistent with management objectives for other game mammals outlined in ODFW management plans.



# Chapter III- Cougar Management Objectives



## *Draft Update Proposal*

- Objective 2: So long as Objective 1 is met **ODFW will proactively manage cougar-human safety/pet conflicts as measured by cougars taken as a result of human safety/pet complaints.** ODFW may take management action to reduce the cougar population.
- Objective 3: So long as Objective 1 is met, **ODFW will proactively manage cougar-livestock conflicts as measured by non-hunting mortalities of cougars taken as a result of livestock damage complaints.** ODFW may take management actions to reduce the cougar population.

# Chapter III- Cougar Management Objectives



- Objective 5 in 2006 Cougar Plan is Objective 4 in Draft Update
- Objective 4: So long as Objective 1 is met, ODFW will proactively **manage cougar populations in a manner compatible and consistent with management objectives for other game mammals** outlined in ODFW management plans.



# Chapter III- Cougar Management Objectives

## *Draft Update Objectives\**

- **Objective 1:** Manage for a cougar population not below 3,000 cougars statewide.
- **Objective 2:** Manage cougar-human safety/pet conflicts as measured by non-hunting mortalities.
- **Objective 3:** Manage cougar-livestock conflicts as measured by non-hunting mortalities.
- **Objective 4:** Manage cougar populations in a manner compatible and consistent with management objectives for other game mammals outlined in ODFW management plans.

# Chapter IV- Adaptive Management



- Updated hypotheses, findings, and techniques
- Zone Updates
- Propose change to conflict objective thresholds

Table 16. Adaptive management parameters for Cougar Management Zone A: Coast/North Cascades.

Management Concern	Indicator	Objectives	Criteria Triggering Targeted Area Management
Human Interactions	Non-hunting mortality related to livestock and human safety/pet	< 15 cougars killed per year for the zone	>15 cougars killed/yr could trigger control in areas around human habitation or livestock operations.
	Human safety and pet complaints	< 191 complaints per year for the zone	> 191 complaints/yr could trigger control in areas around human habitation.
	Livestock complaints	< 102 complaints per year for the zone	> 102 complaints/yr could trigger control in areas around livestock operations.

2006  
Cougar Plan

# Chapter IV- Adaptive Management



- Updated hypotheses, findings, and techniques
- Zone Updates
- Propose change to conflict objective thresholds

Table 17. Adaptive management parameters for Cougar Management Zone A: Coast/North Cascades.

Management Concern	Indicator	Objectives	Criteria Triggering Targeted Area Management
Human Interactions	Non-hunting mortality related to human safety/pet	The 3-year average of non-hunting mortalities due to human safety/pet complaints does not exceed the 10-year average	A 3-year average that exceeds the 10-year average could trigger control in areas around human habitation.
	Non-hunting mortality related to livestock	The 3-year average of non-hunting mortalities due to livestock complaints does not exceed the 10-year average	A 3-year average that exceeds the 10-year average could trigger control in areas around livestock operations.

Draft Update



## Chapter V- Literature Cited

- 100+ new citations

## Appendices

- Guidelines for and Overview of staff response to cougar interactions, damage, and conflict
- Habitat analysis
- Past target area and expense summaries



# Summary



- Added new information and removed unnecessary sections
- Increased information on indicators of population health and trends
- Attention to coexistence and responses to sightings and conflict (damage/safety)
- Attention to the science behind target areas, evaluation of the management technique, and lessons learned





