

2020 Mountain Lion Regulations

Hunting Season Dates

Pine Ridge North and South Subunits

Season 1: Jan. 2 – Feb. 29, 2020

The season shall immediately close if either the season harvest limit or female sublimit is reached before Feb. 29, 2020.

Auxiliary Season: If the harvest limit for a subunit is not reached during Season 1, an Auxiliary Season for that subunit will be held during March 15 – March 31, 2020.

2020 Harvest Limit

Pine Ridge North Subunit:

Four lions, with sublimit of two females

Pine Ridge South Subunit:

Four lions, with sublimit of two females

Legal Weapons

- .22-caliber or larger rifle that deliver at least 900 foot-pounds of energy at 100 yards
- .357 magnum rifle
- .45 Colt rifle
- .44-caliber or larger muzzleloading rifle
- .62-caliber or larger muzzleloading musket, firing a single slug
- Handguns or muzzleloading handguns that deliver at least 400 foot-pounds of energy at 50 yards
- Long bow, compound bow, recurve bow, or shoulder-fired non-electronic crossbow with a draw weight of at least 125 pounds

Note:

- Full-metal jacket or incendiary bullets are illegal.
- Arrows must have a sharpened hunting head with a blade of at least 7/16-inch cutting radius from the center of the arrow shaft.
- Arrows containing poison, stupefying chemical or having an explosive tip are illegal.

Bag Limit

One mountain lion of either sex.

Shooting Hours

Sunrise to sunset.

Permits

- No person may obtain more than one mountain lion permit in a calendar year.
- Permittees from Season 1 who were not successful may apply to convert their permit to an Auxiliary Season permit if an Auxiliary Season is held. Applications for conversion must be received by March 6, 2020 by 5 p.m. CST by mail or 11:59 p.m. CST by internet.

Minimum Age to Hunt Mountain Lions

12 years of age. Any person age 12-15 must be supervised by a person at least 19 years of age who has a valid hunting permit.

Permission

Permission is required to hunt on private land. It is unlawful to hunt with a rifle within 200 yards of an occupied dwelling or feedlot without specific permission for that purpose or within 100 yards using other methods.

Hunter Orange

Not required.

Cancelling the Permit

The successful permit holder must cancel the permit by punching or notching it, indicating date of kill and sex, immediately after killing a mountain lion. The canceled permit must remain on the person of the hunter while in possession of a mountain lion before successfully completing the check station process.

Habitat Stamp

Any resident age 16 or older must have a valid Nebraska Habitat Stamp. Only one stamp is needed for all hunting of any species in a calendar year.

Status of Mountain Lion Season

It is unlawful to hunt mountain lions in Nebraska without first confirming that the season is open EACH DAY by checking the toll-free phone number provided on the hunting permit or by checking nebraskamountainlions.org.

Rules for Open Mountain Lion Seasons

Pine Ridge Subunits

- Season 1 and Auxiliary Season -- The season shall immediately close in a subunit if either the season harvest limit of four mountain lions or sublimit of two female mountain lions is reached before the season end dates.
- Hunting mountain lions with the aid of dogs is not allowed during Season 1. Hunting mountain lions with the aid of dogs is allowed during an Auxiliary Season if an Auxiliary Season is held.

Checking

- Any mountain lion harvested must be reported to Game and Parks within eight hours of recovery of the animal using a phone number or website specified by Game and Parks, or in person at a district office during normal business hours.
- The entire unfrozen carcass, with proof of gender naturally attached, must be presented to a Game and Parks representative within 24 hours of the time of kill for inspection and attachment of an official harvest seal. Once notified of harvest, Game and Parks may make arrangements for a later check.
- Game and Parks may collect a tissue sample from each mountain lion harvested.
- The permittee shall furnish Game and Parks with the date and location of kill before attaching the harvest seal.
- The harvest seal must remain attached to the mountain lion until the pelt is tanned, mounted or otherwise preserved.

Unlawful Acts

It is illegal to:

- chase, run or harass a mountain lion with a motor vehicle
- shoot at or take a mountain lion from a motor vehicle that is moving or underway
- take a mountain lion in any area other than the area for which the hunting permit is issued
- to establish, utilize, or maintain a baited area for ten days prior to the opening of the season and throughout the entire season for the purpose of taking a mountain lion. A baited area is defined as an area within 200 yards of any location where bait (any food material) is placed or maintained for the purposes of hunting and that may serve as an attractant. It shall be unlawful for a person within a baited area to hunt mountain lions or for a person to hunt or take mountain lions that are within a baited area. An area shall be considered to be baited for 10 days following the removal of all bait. The use of scents alone, normal environmental conditions, accepted farming and ranching practices, forest management, wildlife food plantings, orchard management, or similar land management activities do not constitute baiting.
- harvest or attempt to harvest a mountain lion with a spotted coat (kitten) or any mountain lion accompanying another mountain lion
- hunt mountain lions with the aid of dogs, traps or bait, with the exception that dogs may be used during an Auxiliary Season.
- fail to check or report any mountain lion taken
- falsely check or report the harvest of any mountain lion
- Obtain more than one mountain lion permit per calendar year

Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers

If you see a game violation, report it to Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers toll-free at 800-742-7627. Your free call will be kept confidential and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

