

2025 Mountain Lion Regulations

Hunting Season Dates

Pine Ridge, Niobrara and Wildcat Hills units:

Season 1: Jan. 2 – end of February (Feb. 28), 2025

The season shall immediately close if either the season harvest limit or female sublimit is reached before Feb. 28, 2025.

Auxiliary Season: If the harvest limit for a unit is not reached during Season 1, an Auxiliary Season will be held the Saturday closest to March 13 through the end of March (March 15 – March 31), 2025.

Harvest Limit

Pine Ridge Unit:

12 lions, with sublimit of six females

Niobrara Unit:

Four lions, with sublimit of two females

Wildcat Hills Unit:

Three 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.
- A number of permits equal to the number of lions remaining in the limit would be issued by lottery to unsuccessful permit holders from that unit who apply for the Auxiliary Season.

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.

Status of Mountain Lion Season

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

Hunting with dogs is allowed only during Auxiliary Season

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.

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.

Checking

- Mountain lions must be checked in the unit in which they were harvested.
- 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 unfrozen mountain lion 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

- Chasing, running or harassing a mountain lion with a motor vehicle.

- Shooting at or taking a mountain lion from a motor vehicle that is moving or underway.
- Taking a mountain lion in any area other than the area for which the hunting permit is issued.
- Hunting mountain lions within 200 yards of a baited area. An area is be considered baited for 10 days following the complete removal of all bait. The hunter and the animal must be outside of the baited area during the harvest or attempted harvest. A baited area is any location where grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, hay, minerals (including salt), or any other natural food materials, commercial products containing food materials, or by-products of such materials that may attract a mountain lion. The use of scents alone, normal environmental conditions, standard farming and ranching practices, forest management, wildlife food plantings, orchard management, or similar land management activities do not constitute a baited area.
- Creating a baited area on lands owned or controlled by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.
- Harvesting or attempting to harvest a mountain lion with a spotted coat (kitten) or any mountain lion accompanying another mountain lion.
- Hunting mountain lions with the aid of dogs, traps or bait, with the exception that dogs may be used during an Auxiliary Season.
- Failing to check or report any mountain lion taken.
- Falsely checking or reporting the harvest of any mountain lion.
- Obtaining more than one mountain lion permit per calendar year.
- Separating a mountain lion carcass into portions smaller than the head and quarters with proof of gender naturally attached before successfully completing the check station process. Quarters mean four legs with femur or scapula naturally attached and loins.



Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers

There are three ways to report a game law violation:

- call 1-800-742-7627
- online report form at OutdoorNebraska.gov/wildlifecrimestoppers/
- scan the QR code to the right

Visit the above site for the most up-to-date list of conservation officers.

