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(Neb.)-Mountain Lion Season To Open Next Week



By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 12/27/2013 09:08 AM

(Chadron)- Mountain lion season will be opening shortly in the Nebraska Panhandle's Pine Ridge Unit and the Prairie Unit. According to the Nebraska Game and Parks web page, mountain lions have recently recolonized the Pine Ridge and Niobrara River Valley and may be recolonizing other areas of suitable habitat such as the Wildcat Hills. Dispersing mountain lions have been documented throughout the state including agricultural areas where suitable habitat may be limited. In order to provide hunting opportunities for this species the Commission has approved Nebraska's inaugural mountain lion harvest season for 2014.

Hunting seasons for mountain lions in Nebraska will begin on Jan 1, 2014 in both units. Permits for the Prairie Unit will be available from 1:00 p.m. CST on December 16, 2013, through December 31, 2014. There is no limit to the number of permits that will be sold for this unit.

All applications for the Pine Ridge Unit are drawn for season and 1 and 2. The first person drawn by lottery will be issued a permit to harvest a mountain lion during season 1 or season 2. The following 100 persons drawn will be issued permits for season 2.

For the Pine Ridge Unit, Season 1 will consist of two permits, one auction and one lottery, and Season 2 will consist of 100 permits by lottery. Prairie Unit will have unlimited permits (resident only).

Season 1 runs from January 1 to February 14, and shall immediately close if either the annual harvest quota or female sub-quota is reached before Feb. 14. Season 2 is from February 15 to March 31, and shall immediately close if either the annual harvest quota or female sub-quota is reached before March 31.

It is unlawful to hunt mountain lions in a unit with a limited harvest quota (Pine Ridge Unit) 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 this web page (www.nebraskamountainlions.org)

Only one mountain lion permit may be obtained in a given year. Successful applicants may not apply for a permit in another unit in the same year. The application fee for unsuccessful applicants will not be applied to other units.

For more information and a map of the units, go to <http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/hunting/guides/MountainLion/>

(Information courtesy Nebraska Game & Parks)