

# Mountain Lion Research & Policy



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# Overview

- Legal History in California
- Mountain Lion Program
- Current Program Activities
- Laws & Policy
- Looking down the road



# Legal History in California

- 1907-1963 Bountied Predator
- 1963-1969 Nongame Mammal
- 1969-1972 Game Mammal
- 1972-1986 Protected Mammal
- 1986-1990 Game Mammal (no hunting)
- 1990-Now Specially Protected Mammal

No funding since 1972

# Mountain Lion Program

- Began

- Motiva

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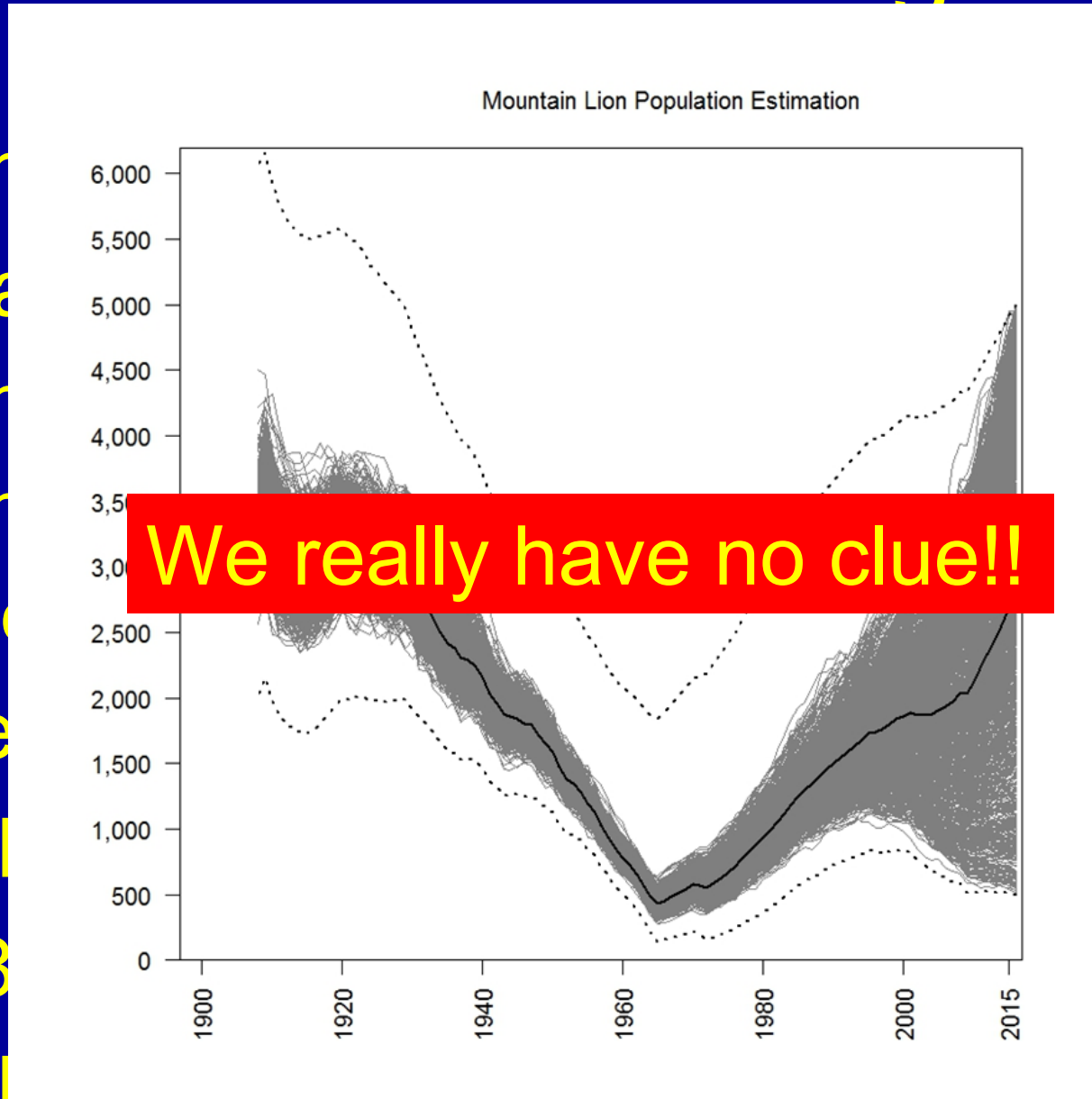
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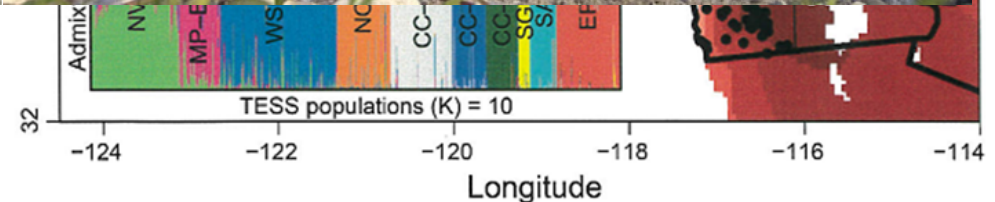
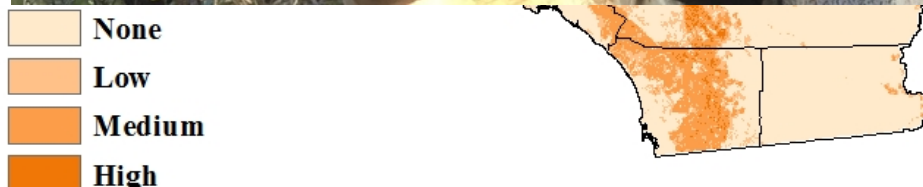
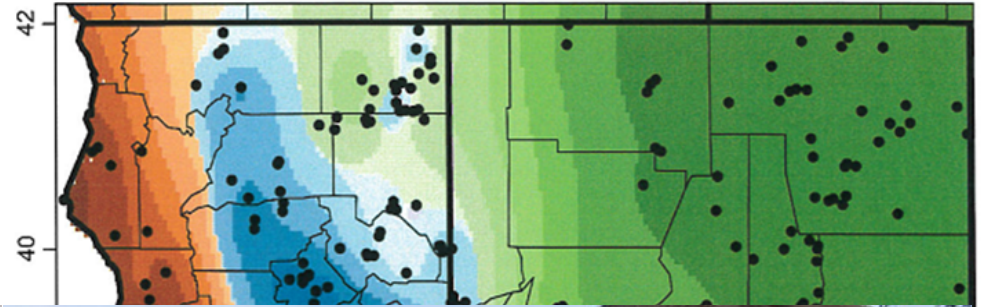
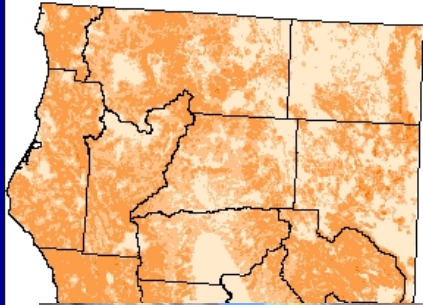


answer?

= 3,145



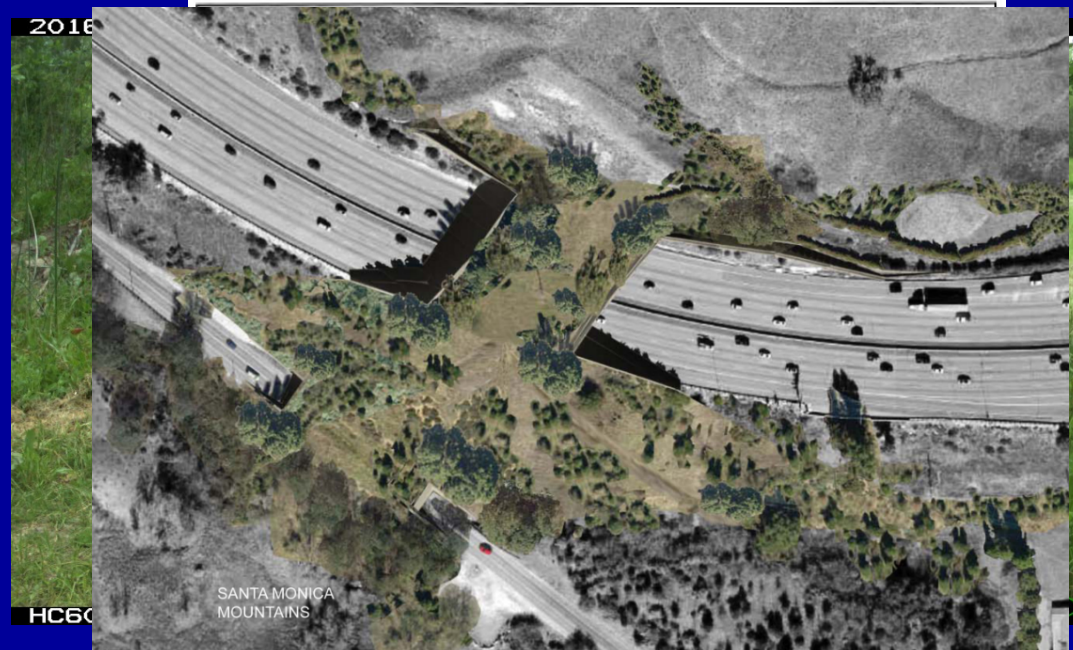
# Current Program Activities





# Current Program Activities

- Why the state-wide project?
- More than population estimate
- Large/Diverse State = Diverse Issues
- Regional Knowledge = Regional Issues
  - Prey relationships
  - Population size
  - Conflict
  - Connectivity



# Laws, Regulations, Policies

- Laws set by State Legislature
  - “By the People”
  - Fish and Game Code
  - Google “ca fish & game code” – 1<sup>st</sup> link
- Regulations established by Fish and Game Commission
  - In consultation with CDFW
- CDFW Policy set by Department Staff



# CDFW Mountain Lion Policy

- Laws pertaining to “conflict” lions
- Fish and Game Code 4802-4809
  - Lions may be taken if:
    - Posing immediate threat to human safety
    - Caught in the act of injuring livestock and pets
      - 72 hours to report and carcass must be made available
    - Permitted by CDFW upon request by property owner incurring damage

# CDFW Mountain Lion Policy

- CDFW personnel verify damage
  - CDFW has 48 hrs to complete investigation from time of report
- If evidence supports lion, CDFW SHALL issue TAKE permit if requested by the landowner
- Permit valid for 10 days (may be renewed)
- Pursuit begins <1 mile from damage and continues <10 miles

**What is TAKE?**

# CDFW Mountain Lion Policy

- Take (see Fish & Game Code 4801 - 4803)
  - Kill ————— Lethal
  - Capture
  - Pursue
  - Harass
  - Haze
  - Mark (tag/radio-collar)

Non-lethal

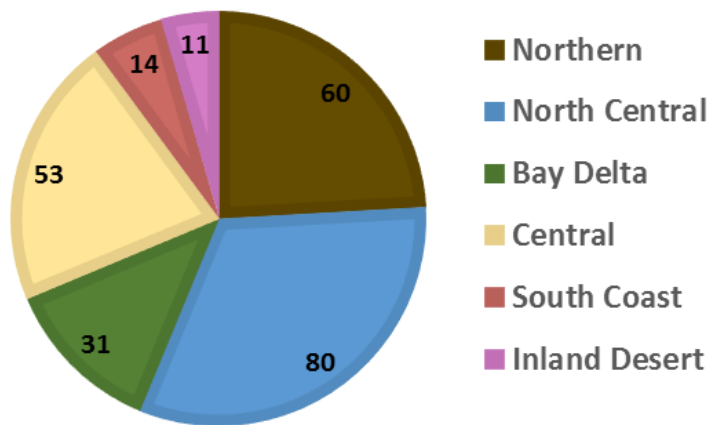
\*Most permits issued are for lethal take\*

\*~100 lions taken lethally/yr in recent years\*

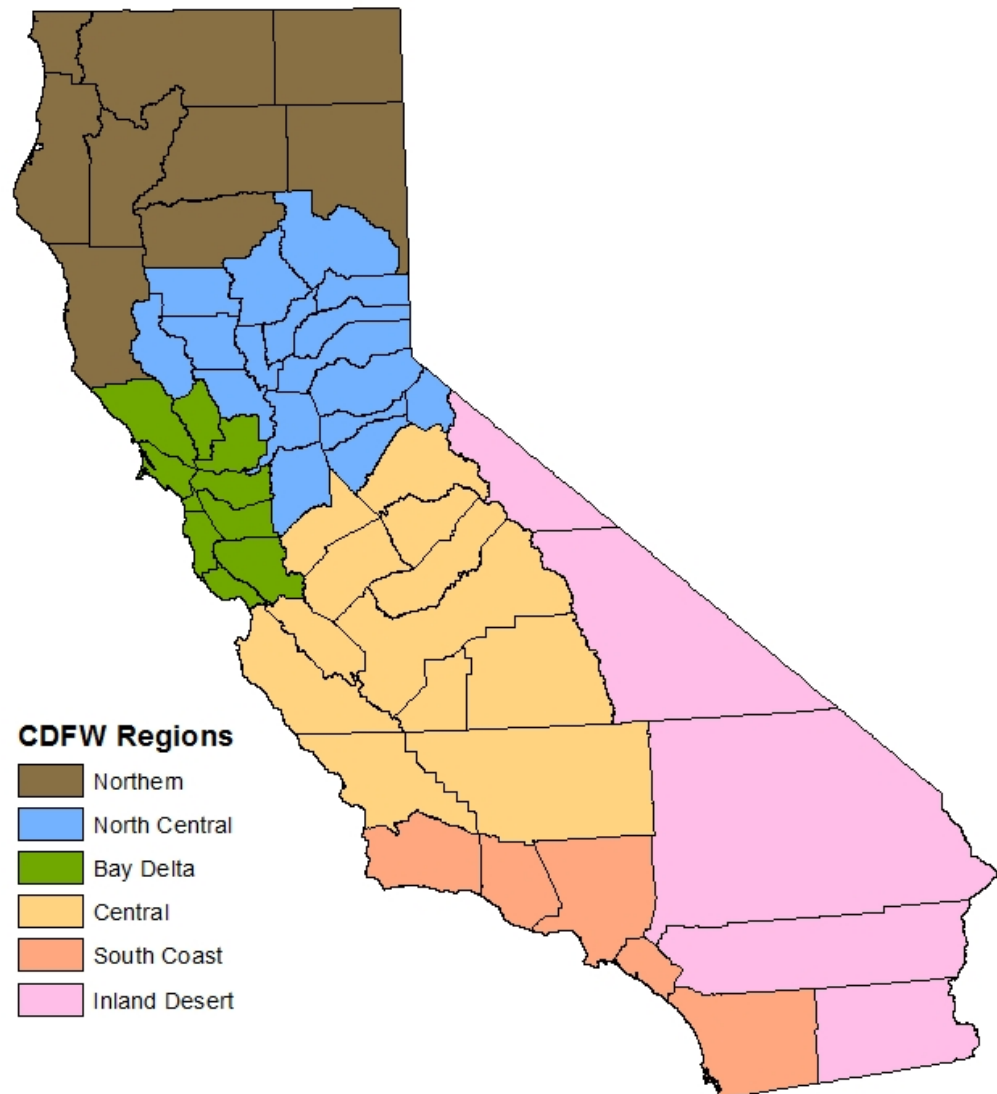


# CDFW Mountain Lion Policy

LIONS TAKEN BY REGION 2015-2017

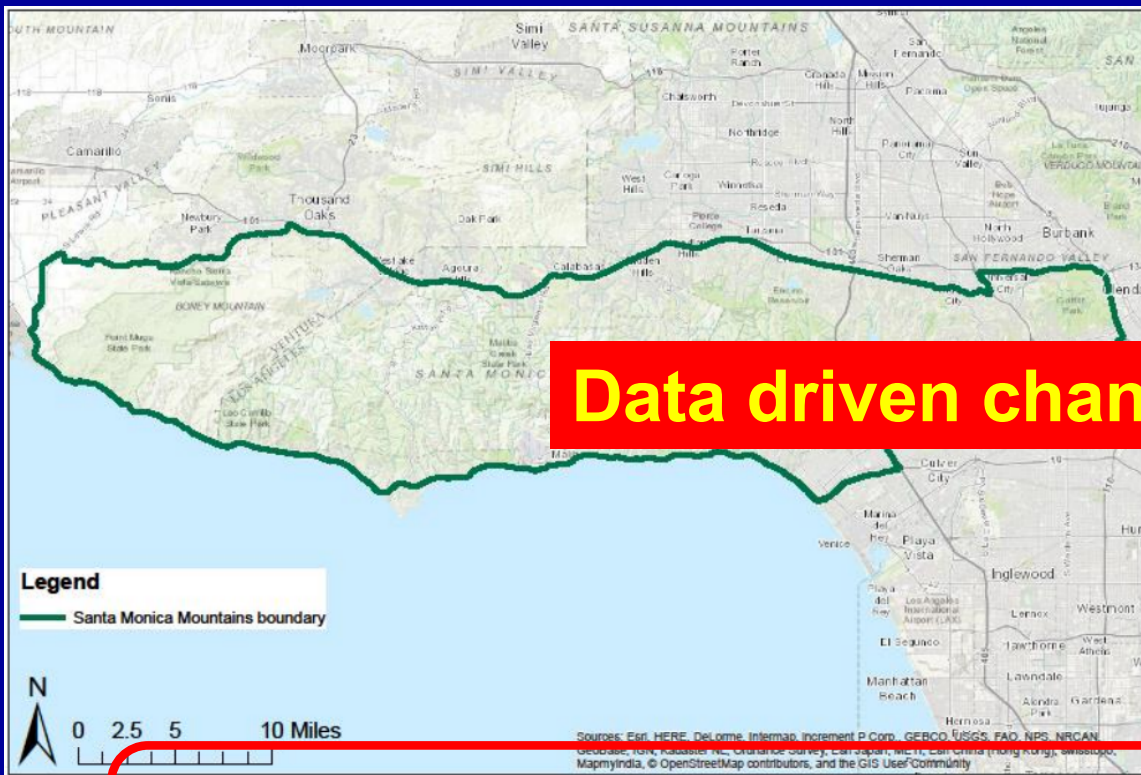


~90% lethal  
permits related to  
sheep or goats



# CDFW Mountain Lion Policy

- Amendment to Depredation



- Everywhere else landown of TAKE



# Looking down the road

- What nonlethal measures work?
  - CDFW and Wildlife Services collaborative research effort
- Does data support future policy changes?
  - Population monitoring data
  - Conflict data
- Do policy changes = intended purpose?
  - Social acceptance
  - Operational feasibility
  - Biological impact



# Closing

- CDFW lion program is still new
- Currently data and funding deficient....working to change
  - This will take time and help
- Working towards addressing lion issues regionally with data
- Want to hear what all folks have to say

What's y'all  
thoughts/questions