

One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB127

Chairperson: Senator Ken Schilz

Committee: Natural Resources

Date of Hearing: February 26, 2015

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The goal of this bill is to end the authority granted to the Games And Parks Commission to establish a hunting season for mountain lions.

This will be accomplished by an appropriate amendment to section 37-452 and outright repeal of sections 37-472 and 37-473, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2014.

Scientific studies indicate an estimated population of 22 mountain lions in the Pine Ridge during May and June of 2014. Estimates are not available for other areas. In 2014 in the Pine Ridge, a total of 12 were killed: 8 females, 4 males. In the rest of the state, four were killed. Thus, 16 mountain lions were killed during 2014.

Legal hunting took 5; 11 fell prey to illegal hunting, traps, vehicles, etc.

No hunting season will be set for 2015, and a several-years' scientific study will be undertaken by Game and Parks to determine numbers, movement, etc. of the animals.

With such a small population (by whatever means determined), such a high mortality rate cannot be sustained without exterminating the great cats which were a native species until eliminated in 1890. The first sighting since then was in 1991.

No confirmed attacks on humans have occurred.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Ernie Chambers