

HUMAN/LION AND LIVESTOCK/LION INTERACTIONS IN MONTANA ^{TWS}

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Reports of 245 mountain lion (*Felis concolor*) incidents in Montana were compiled and examined each fiscal year (FY) from July 1989 until July 1995.

Incidents include a significant conflict between a human and lion or livestock and lion that had serious consequences. Livestock/lion incidents comprised

50.2% (N=123) of the total reports while human/lion incidents comprise 49.8% (N=122). Livestock/lion incidents were stratified according to the class of livestock involved. Human/lion incidents were classed as human attacks, predatory/aggressive incidents, pet attacks, and nuisance incidents. The

number of lion incidents in Montana has increased from 23 in FY 1990 to 48 in FY 1995. The number of human lion incidents was highest in FY 1991 and declined during the following 4 years. The number of livestock/lion incidents has increased from 8 in FY1990 to 35 in FY1995. The class of livestock most frequently preyed upon by lions was domestic sheep followed in rank by horses, goats, cattle, poultry, llamas and rabbits. Most of the human/lion and livestock/lion incidents occur between the month of June and November. Age and physical condition of lions involved in all incidents are best characterized as young lions (ages 1-4) in good

condition. The sex ratio for livestock incidents was significantly different than for human/lion incidents ($\text{Chi}^2 = 17.47$, $\text{d.f.} = 1$, $P < 0.05$). Males were more likely to be involved in livestock/lion incidents. Human/lion incidents were most common in western Montana valleys characterized by corridor type residential development. Livestock/lion incidents were most common in central Montana mountainous regions where sheep production is high or in western valleys where hobby ranchers raised livestock. The role of management and socioeconomic factors influencing lion incidents are discussed.