September 29, 2017

Kellye Pinkleton
Arizona State Director
The Humane Society of the United States
1255 23rd Street, NW, Suite 450
Washington, DC 20037

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Ms. Pinkleton:

Pursuant to your request, please find the enclosed information from the Department for the period of 2010-present.

Bullets 1-3: The harvest data for mountain lions and bobcats is included in the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s (AGFD) Hunt Arizona publication which can be found, at no charge, on the AGFD website (https://www.azgfd.com/Hunting/surveydata/).

Bullet 4: No records are available. The AGFD does not collect data on trap type. The use of leghold traps are illegal per ARS 17-301.D.

Bullet 5: The data requested is only captured on bobcats that have been CITES tagged. The data in table below is a subset of the total hunter and trapper harvest data. Prior to the 2013-2014 trapping year, method of take information was only captured for those bobcats that were exported out of Arizona (CITES tagged). Beginning with 2013-2014, method of take data is collected on all bobcats that are harvested through trapping and from any hunter harvested bobcat that is exported out of Arizona.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Hounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>16 (2.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>6 (0.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>4 (0.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>11 (1.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>34 (1.4 %)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>20 (1.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>3 (0.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>21 (1.9%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bullet 6: No records are available. The AGFD does not collect data on the use of bait.

Bullet 7: There have been no reports of incidental take of jaguars or ocelot by the AGFD from 2010 to present. Lynx do not occur in Arizona. The AGFD does track take of these species by other agencies or citizens.

Bullet 8: The AGFD does not have population estimates for bobcat, jaguar, or ocelot. Lynx do not occur in Arizona. Mountain lions populations are difficult to assess due to their cryptic, solitary nature; however, the AGFD is using a technique that uses age at harvest data to back calculate an estimate of the population. This is a newly employed method for AGFD that applies statistical assessments of the population and is the method that is being used by several states for big game species; the method was presented by the AGFD at the 12th Mountain Lion Workshop in May 2017. In this paper, we use cementum annuli tooth age data from premolar teeth removed during physical inspection to calculate age at harvest. By applying virtual population analysis, an age-structured population model, age-at-harvest data are used to reconstruct cohort abundance over time and summed across cohorts to estimate minimum abundance. We also applied the methods of Gulland to incorporate harvest from mountain lions of unknown ages and natural mortality. Based on the preliminary results of this model, Arizona’s mountain lion population ranges from about 2,000 to 2,700 statewide (citations include: Fry, F. E. J. 1949. Statistics of a lake trout fishery. Biometrics 5:26-67; Fry, F. E. J. 1957. Assessment of mortalities by use of the virtual population. Proceedings of Joint Scientific Meeting of the ICNAF (International Commission for Northwest Atlantic Fisheries), ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea), and FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) on Fishing Effort, the Effects of Fishing on Resources and the Selectivity of Fishing Gear; Gulland, J. A. 1965. Estimation of mortality rates. Annex to Arctic Fisheries Working Group Report, document no. 3. International Council for the Exploration of Sea, Copenhagen, Denmark; and Skalski, J. R., K. E. Ryding, and J. J. Millspaugh. 2005. Wildlife Demography: Analysis of Sex, Age, and Count Data. Elsevier Academic Press, Burlington, MA).

Bullet 9: Records regarding complaints, sightings, or incidents involving bobcats, mountain lions, jaguars, ocelots, and lynx (conflicts involving livestock, pets, public safety, and/or property) are attached; all personal identifying information has been redacted. Human-wildlife interaction data was collected from 2010-2012 in an Access database; this database was not functional between 2013 and 2014 and no data was captured during those years. A new database was developed in 2015.

Bullet 10: AGFD does not issue permits for depredating bobcats or mountain lion. Depredating mountain lions are handled per ARS 17-302, Taking of Bear or Mountain Lion for Protection of Property. Copies of depredation reports from 2010 to present are attached; all specific location and personal identifying information have been redacted.

Bullet 11: AGFD does not manage bobcats or mountain lions on tribal lands and has no agreements relating to hunting or trapping of bobcat or mountain lion on tribal lands.
Ms. Kellye Pinkleton  
September 29, 2017  
Page 3

Bullet 12: Copies of permits and licenses (Private Game Farm License, Scientific Collecting License, Wildlife Holding License, Wildlife Rehabilitation License, Wildlife Service License, and Zoo License) issued pursuant to Rule 12-4-409 for mountain lion, bobcat, canada lynx, jaguar, ocelot, tiger, and lion are attached; all personal identifying information has been redacted. Of the species listed, Wildlife Services Licenses issued are only valid for bobcats.

The Department no longer discloses personal identifying information which includes but is not limited to name, address, date of birth, social security number, license numbers, addresses, physical description, phone numbers or email addresses, because our legal counsel has advised that customers have an expectation of privacy in their personal identifying information that outweighs the public’s right to this information.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact the Arizona Game and Fish Department, at 602-942-3000.

Sincerely,

J. deVos  
Assistant Director  
Wildlife Management Division
July 19, 2017

Celeste Cook  
Acting Public Records Request Coordinator  
Director’s Office, Rules and Risk Section  
Arizona Game and Fish Department  
5000 W. Carefree Highway  
Phoenix, AZ 85086-5000

Sent Via Email: CCook@azgfd.gov

Arizona Public Records Law Request

Dear Ms. Cook:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States ("The HSUS"), and its members and supporters in Arizona and pursuant to the Arizona Public Records Law ("APRL"), Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 39-101 et seq., I am requesting copies of the following public documents made or received in the course of the operation of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD):

- From years 2010 to the present (broken down by year/season): the total annual mortality of mountain lions
- From years 2010 to present (broken down by year/season): the total number of mountain lions killed by hunters with the use of hounds.
- From years 2010 to the present (broken down by year/season): the total annual mortality of bobcats; the
- From years 2010 to the present (broken down by year/season): the total number of bobcats trapped annually – separated out by type of trap, if available.
- From years 2010 to the present (broken down by year/season): the number of bobcats killed by hunters with the use of hounds annually
- From years 2010 to the present (broken down by year/season): the total number of bobcats taken with the use of bait
- From years 2010 to the present, any take of jaguars, lynx or ocelot, and by entity (e.g., Arizona Game and Fish agent, citizen, Wildlife Services agent or other).
- The AGFD’s current population estimates for bobcats, jaguars, lynx mountain lions and ocelots, and a description of the method(s) utilized for calculating their populations.
- From years 2010 to present: any records regarding complaints, sightings, or incidents involving bobcats, mountain lions, jaguars, ocelots, and lynx.
  o Complaints and incidents include, but are not limited to, conflicts involving livestock, pets, public safety, and/or property.
- From years 2010 to present: copies of any permits issued for depredation of bobcats and mountain lions
- Any agreements, Memorandums of Understanding, or other documentation relating to hunting and trapping of bobcats and mountain lions on Tribal lands.
- Copies of any permits or licenses issued pursuant to Rule 12-4-409 for the following species: Mountain Lion, Bobcat, Canada lynx, Jaguar, Ocelot, Tiger, and Lion.
We are specifically interested in the following licenses: Private game farm license, Scientific collecting license, Wildlife holding license, Wildlife rehabilitation license, Wildlife service license, and Zoo license.

If you are not the appropriate official to handle this request, please forward this letter to the appropriate person, and let me know that you have done so. Pursuant to the APRL, for purposes of this request the term "record" includes "all books, papers, maps, photographs or other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics ... made or received by any governmental agency in pursuance of law or in connection with the transaction of public business[.]" Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 41-151.18. If any requested records are withheld, The HSUS requests that AZGFD "furnish an index of records or categories of records that have been withheld and the reasons the records or categories of records have been withheld," as required by law. Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 39-121.01(D)(2). The HSUS does not have a commercial purpose for the records requested, as defined under Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 39-121.03(D). Please send copies of the responsive records to me using the contact information below.

The HSUS requests a waiver of fees incurred in connection with this request. The HSUS is a national non-profit animal protection organization (tax exempt number 53-0225390) headquartered in Washington, DC, with four regional offices and various hands-on animal care facilities located throughout the country and international offices throughout the world. Waiving or reducing such fees will be in the best interest of the public and The HSUS qualifies as a representative of the news media.

Policies and activities relating to proper animal care and use at research institutions are of national concern. The HSUS has the ability to contribute to the public's understanding of state facilities' operations as well as their policies and activities relating to animal welfare and animal research due to its size and proven ability to disseminate information to a large segment of the public. The HSUS is particularly well suited to distribute information regarding laboratory procedures to concerned citizens and others throughout the country, because of its long standings dedication and ongoing efforts to promote the humane care and treatment of animals in laboratories, and to promote humane alternatives to animal testing. In addition, The HSUS routinely distributes information, press releases, reports, and copies of original documents to members of the media to generate articles. It also routinely distributes, at no charge, its own information and information obtained from other sources regarding policies and activities relating to research facilities, to anyone requesting such information. This includes the public, media, students, and scientists. Reports, comments, action alerts, press releases, and other materials relating to the policies and activities of research facilities have been and will continue to be added to The HSUS home page to ensure that interested citizens have around the clock access to information.

The HSUS is also a representative of the news media. It has extensive and well-exercised means to keep the public informed on the operations and activities of the United States government and the governments of the various states. The HSUS does not merely obtain information and then contact members of the press to relate that information; rather, The HSUS independently analyzes the information, drafts its own reports and articles on the issues, and disseminates the information broadly through its own publications to members and

As a result of its longstanding interest in policies and activities relating to wildlife, The HSUS has developed a substantial level of expertise on the issues which commands public attention when it disseminates such information. Given its independent and extensive public dissemination of information pertaining to policies and activities relating to wildlife, The HSUS qualifies as a representative of the news media.

The primary purpose for requesting these records is to obtain information about policies and activities relating to the welfare of animals, not to commercially profit from the sale of this information. Therefore, as the disclosure of the requested records would be to the primary benefit of the general public and The HSUS is a member of the news media, The HSUS respectfully requests a waiver of fees incurred in connection with this request.

If you deny our request for a fee waiver, and if the cost of complying with this request is expected to exceed $200.00, please notify me, so that The HSUS may decide whether to pay the fees. If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this request, please contact me. I look forward to receiving your response promptly, as required by law. See Ariz. Rev. Stat.§ 39-121.01(E). Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Kellye Pinkleton
Arizona State Director
The Humane Society of the United States
kpinkleton@humanesociety.org

1 As used herein, this request adopts the definition of “documents” from the Federal Records Act (44 U.S.C. § 3101 et seq.), which includes “all ... papers, maps, photographs, machine readable materials or other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received by an agency of the United States Government under Federal law or in connection with the transaction of public business...” Id. at § 3301. This definition includes paper documents, electronic mail (e-mail), memoranda, notes, guidelines, databases, and internal policy documents, without exception. All of the above information should be easily available and a matter of public record.