

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to the PM's OF MONDAY, JUNE 11, 1945.

To help stockmen and game protectors in the local control of mountain lions which prey on domestic stock and deer, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the United States Department of the Interior today released a new publication entitled Mountain Lion Trapping.

The American mountain lion, according to Stanley P. Young, biologist and author of the new circular, is one of the largest predatory animals of the United States, sometimes weighing more than 200 pounds.

Also known as cougar, panther, puma, and catamount, its range includes the large wilderness areas of the 11 western states, southern Texas and southern Florida. It does its greatest damage in the Rocky Mountain States and southward through the desert mountain ranges of Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico.

Stockmen suffer heavy losses through its depredations because the mountain lion attacks young domestic stock, particularly colts, lambs, and kids, and, when game is scarce, even full-grown horses and cattle. Game conservationists rate it as the greatest natural enemy of deer.

One of the most striking things about these animals is the distance to which they will go for food, declares Mr. Young. "Many have been known to travel 25 miles or more in a night, apparently without resting for any appreciable length of time. Fish and Wildlife Service hunters on the fresh track of a mountain lion have trailed the animal for 10 consecutive hours or longer before treeing it."

In the new circular, based on the experience of predatory-animal hunters of the Service, Mr. Young discusses such topics as the food habits of the mountain lion, control methods, best places to set traps, how to set them, how to cover them, what lures to use, and how to prevent traps from being sprung accidentally.

Mountain Lion Trapping, Circular 6, is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 5 cents a copy.

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