

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: Original  
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: AB 1784  
AUTHOR: Monning, William

**BILL SUMMARY: Mountain lions.**

Existing law establishes the mountain lion as a specially protected mammal and makes it unlawful to take, injure, possess, or sell any mountain lion or mountain lion part.

This bill would authorize the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to allow qualified research entities to capture, collect biological measurements of, and release live mountain lions. The bill contains an urgency statute and would take effect immediately if approved.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

According to DFG, if approved the bill would require one-time regulation development costs of \$30,000 Fish and Game Preservation Fund for DFG staff and Fish and Game Commission time, printing, and publication. Ongoing annual costs would total approximately \$10,000 per year to negotiate memorandum of understandings, process scientific processing permits, monitor compliance, and compile and publish required reports. However, we note that the bill would merely authorize the continuation of an existing activity that was halted in 2011 due to legal concerns. Therefore, we do not concur that the bill would result in additional costs.

**COMMENTS**

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill because it would continue DFG's past practice of providing scientific collection permits to non-departmental research entities. As the bill would merely authorize a long-standing departmental activity, Finance believes it would not result in additional state costs.

Current law specifies that mountain lions are designated as a specially protected species and shall not be taken, injured, captured, possessed, transported or the animal or its parts sold. Furthermore, current law does not provide for scientific research on mountain lions by non-DFG entities and it prohibits certain methods of lawfully taking mountain lions, including by means of poison, leg-hold or metal-jawed traps, and snares.

DFG issued scientific collection permits to non-DFG entities for mountain lions until 2011, then stopped when the possibility was raised that doing so conflicted with the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 (Act). Therefore, the Author's staff believes a bill is necessary to allow continued scientific research on mountain lions.

Finance notes the bill amends the California Wildlife Protection Act, a voter-approved initiative, and would require a four-fifths vote in both houses of the Legislature. The Act permits the Legislature to amend its provisions relating to mountain lions with a four-fifths vote of the members of both houses, but only if the amendments are consistent with the purposes of the California Wildlife Protection Act.

Analyst/Principal (0634) K.Gmeinder	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
Department Deputy Director		Date	
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
BILL ANALYSIS			Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

**BILL ANALYSIS--(CONTINUED)****Form DF-43****AUTHOR****AMENDMENT DATE****BILL NUMBER**

Monning, William

Original

AB 1784

**COMMENTS** (continued)

Since the passage of the Act in 1990, the mountain lion population in California has grown to a level that has allowed the species to no longer be considered endangered.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)						Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)						
	CO	PROP						
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014
3600/Dept FishGam	SO	No	C	0	C	30	C	10 0200
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>							
0200	Fish and Game Preservation Fund							