

### Discussion of Mountain Lion Management Strategies

Several options for reducing attractants were evaluated. However, possible approaches to reducing mountain lion attractants in the city are controversial and not largely supported by the community.

#### 1) Prey Control/Reduction

Options for urban deer population management through culling conflicts with the community value of protecting native wildlife. Culling the urban deer population has been suggested and explored by other communities including Craig, Colorado. City of Craig staff found a lack of public support for culling and did not pursue this option. Relocation of deer has also been suggested by community members as a way to reduce urban deer populations. This option is not feasible due to the Boulder deer population's high prevalence of Chronic Wasting Disease. The prevalence of the disease makes the local deer population unsuitable to be moved to other areas. In addition, both options are costly, and would require some form of ongoing year-to-year effort to be a successful population control method. Birth control for deer, though currently not available, may be a possibility in the future, but is also likely to have challenges and limitations. It is also important to note that none of these population control measures would prevent deer from migrating into the city. While continuing to explore and evaluate urban deer management options is valuable, it is important to recognize that Boulder's location and land uses provide habitat for deer, and they are likely to remain in town and act as attractants for lions.

Restrictions could be placed on unattended pets that are prey to mountain lions (e.g. requiring dogs to be in covered dog runs when unattended on private property). However, community feedback suggests that this type of regulation is perceived as overly restrictive. Similarly, additional regulation of livestock is not favored by community members.

#### 2) Attractant Reduction

While landscaping and water features can attract mountain lions or their prey, defining regulations to reduce this would be difficult and unlikely to succeed. Community support for additional regulation of landscaping for this purpose is low.

#### 3) Removal and Exclusion

There is no feasible way to keep lions out of the City of Boulder. When appropriate, CPW officers will attempt to capture lions either by tranquilizing them with a dart gun, using a baited trap, or using other techniques. When a mountain lion is relocated two outcomes are possible: either the relocated lion returns to its former range, or a different lion moves into the vacated territory which may include a portion of the City of Boulder. Additionally, lions can jump over very high fences and there are no proven techniques to exclude mountain lions from large areas like the City of Boulder.