

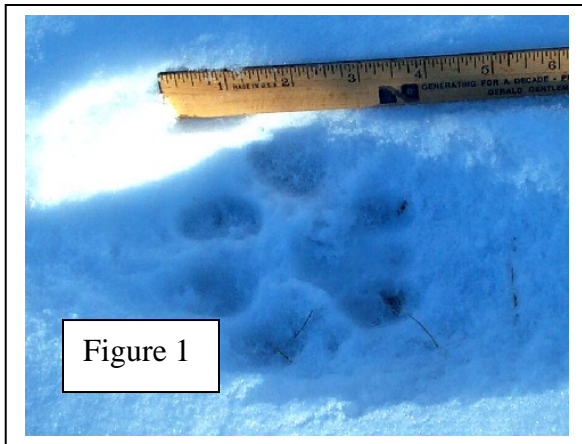
Annual Mountain Lion Occurrence Report 2004

Prepared by Sam Wilson, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

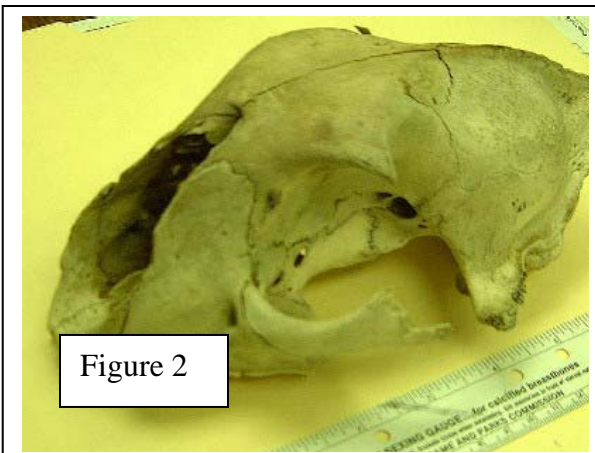
2004 Summary: 5 mountain lion occurrences were confirmed between January 1st and December 31st, 2004 bringing the total number of confirmations from 1991-2004 to 17. 2 confirmations were made based upon photographs or casts of tracks (Figure 1 and 3), 1 confirmation was made based on a trail camera photo (Figure 4), one confirmation was made by examining a skull (Figure 2), and the final confirmation was made based upon the specimen produced in South Sioux City (Figure 5). This is the highest number of confirmations in any year since the first modern confirmation in 1991.

Confirmations in 2004:

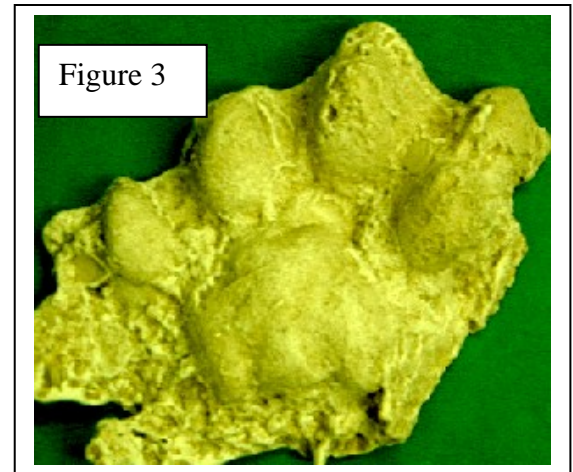
1. The first confirmed report was made on January 6th in Cherry County near Valentine. An inspection by NGPC produced photographs of tracks (Figure 1).



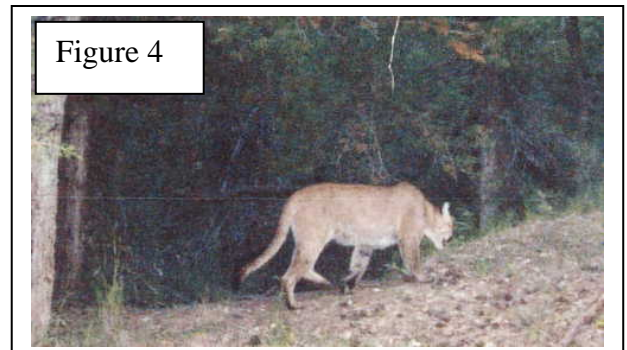
2. The second confirmed report was made on April 18th in Thomas County in Halsey National Forest. A four-wheeling enthusiast found a mountain lion skull (Figure 2), which was inspected by NGPC and aged at 1 year or less by Matson Labs.



3. The third confirmed report was made on May 12th in Dawes County southeast of Crawford. A cast of a track (Figure 3) was made within a few miles of the September 1991 confirmation, which was based on a deer carcass and tracks.



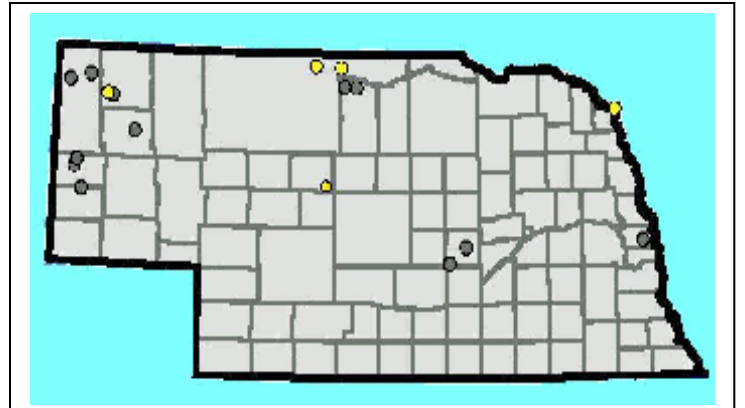
4. The fourth confirmed report was made on September 10th in Keya Paha County west of Norden. A photograph was taken by trail camera (Figure 4) within a half mile of the Niobrara River.



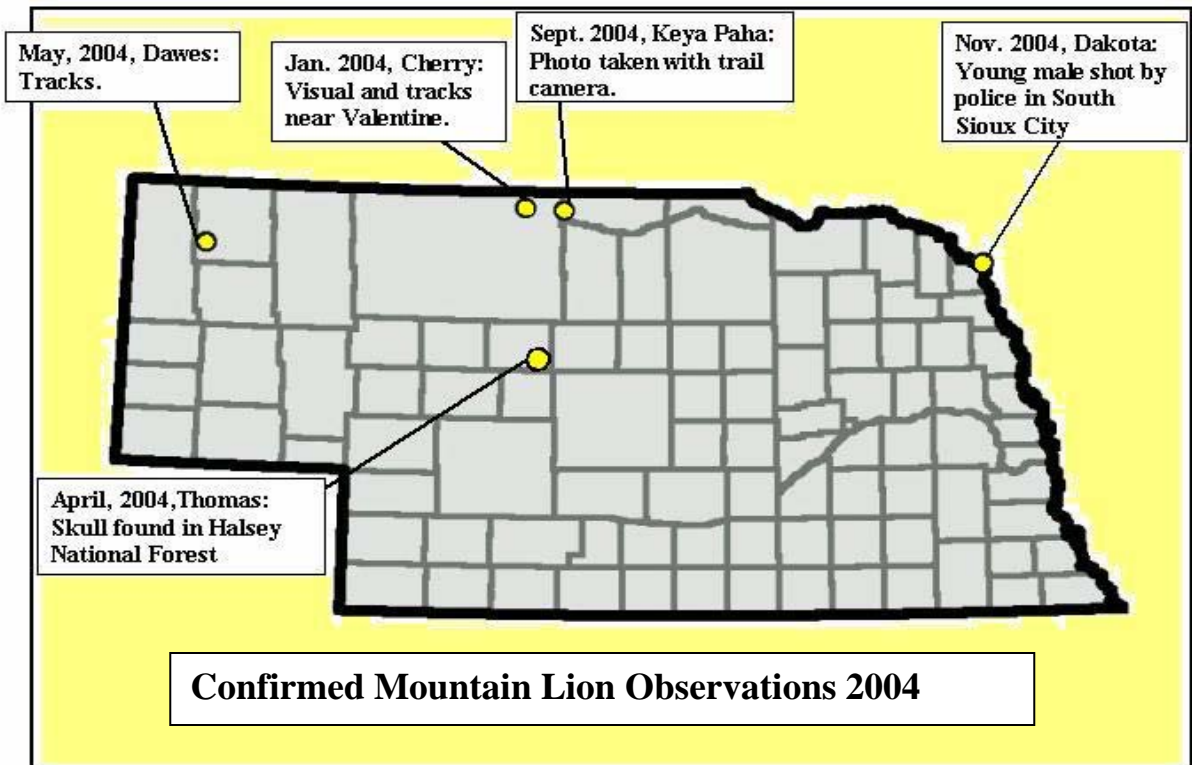
5. The fifth confirmed report was made on November 23rd in Dakota County, South Sioux City. A 100 lb male mountain lion was seen sleeping in a maple tree in a residential area (Figure 5). In accordance with the mountain lion response plan section 4.4 the lion was shot by the Dakota County Sheriff's office. The carcass was then transferred to Lincoln for necropsy.



Figure 5



Confirmed Mountain Lion Observations 1991-2004



Confirmed Mountain Lion Observations 2004