

CoP17 Prop 5. [Canada] Transfer *Puma concolor coryi* and *P. c. cougar* from Appendix I to Appendix II

Puma concolor coryi and *P. c. cougar* are North American endemic subspecies of Cougar.

The current standard taxonomic reference for the great majority of CITES-listed mammals (viz. Wilson and Reeder, 2005) does not recognize *Puma concolor coryi* and *Puma concolor cougar* as separate subspecies, and considers all North American Cougars to belong to a single subspecies *P. c. cougar*. For this reason, the current CITES standard reference for *Puma concolor* is the 1993 edition of Wilson and Reeder. *Puma concolor cougar* is considered to have been extinct since the late 1800s. *Puma concolor coryi* exists as a very small remnant population in the State of Florida in the USA and is subject to intensive management and recovery actions.

P. c. coryi is strongly protected federally with stricter domestic trade restrictions than required under CITES. Hunting and trade of all Cougars in Canada and the United States is strongly regulated by domestic measures. There is no known trade demand for either of these subspecies and transfer to Appendix II is not expected to stimulate demand.

ACCEPT