

Making a Difference for Wildlife

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Zambezi Lion Research Mana Pools, Zimbabwe

to study the behavior and demographics of lion prides in the hunted Chapi and Chewore safari areas for comparison to marked prides in the non-hunted Mana Pools National Park. Basic scientific information such as territory size, prey preferences, and DNA analysis will also be collected. Any new information on lion ecology is bound to be important, with con-

troversy surrounding lion hunting in neighboring Botswana and elsewhere, as well as of interest to the scientific community.

SCI's Blue Ridge, Northern Alaska and Alaska Kenai Peninsula chapters also have contributed to this valuable addition to the understanding of African lion ecology.

IN THE CHEWORE area of Zimbabwe, lion populations appear to be healthy. However, lions cannot be counted from the air like other large mammals. Therefore, data for overall lion numbers, pride numbers, pride composition or home ranges are not available. The population status for mid-Zambezi Valley is largely unknown and hunting quotas have been established by the Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management using educated guesswork. The situation is not defensible, especially under the scrutiny from those who prefer lions not be hunted at all.

With primary funding from SCI Alaska, Parks research ecologist Norman Monks is collaring lions, sometimes at great personal risk,

