



THE MOUNTAIN LION COALITION

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COMMUNICATIONS

Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation Formed

For many of you this is the first newsletter you have received from the Mountain Lion Coalition. For others, who received our newsletters and alerts during the campaign to stop the annihilation of all mountain lions in the North Kings area of Fresno County and plans to open a trophy hunting season on lions, it has been some time since we last communicated.

This newsletter is intended to update all of you about our activities and announce the formation of the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation—one of the most exciting and significant accomplishments for the protection of California's mountain lions.

Some of the Foundation Board members include:

Margaret Owings, Big Sur, (Owings was instrumental in banning the bounty on lions in the '60s and establishing the first moratorium on lion trophy hunting.)

Justice William Newsom, San Francisco, (Long-time wildlife activist and founder of the Wildlife Conservancy.)

Dr. Joseph Hurwitz, Palm Springs, (Rabbi Hurwitz has been a strong and determined supporter of mountain lions.)

Senator Fred Farr, Carmel, (Senator Farr, now retired, carried the legislation that banned the bounty on lions.)

Bill Yeates, Sacramento & Pacific Grove, (Lobbyist/Representative of the Mountain Lion Coalition for the past two years.)

The Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation differs from the Coalition in that it is an independent tax-exempt corporation (contributions to the Foundation will be tax-deductible for donors) established for the sole purpose of generating an educational and informational campaign on the need to protect California's most majestic animal.

Recent surveys on the public's attitudes toward wildlife has shown that Californian's

overwhelmingly (over 80%) oppose trophy hunting. The study reveals that the public doesn't necessarily oppose the hunter who shoots for example deer or ducks for sport, since the animal is often used for food, but is strongly opposed to the trophy hunter who kills the animal merely for fun.

The study and the enormous outcry the Commission received to the North Kings plan reinforces the immediate need to inform more of the public about the plight of our lions. Once informed and educated, the public's attitude toward the trophy hunting of lions must be focused on the Coalition's efforts to protect mountain lions from a trophy hunting season, whether its through another piece of legislation or influencing an administrative decision by California's wildlife agencies (California Fish and Game Commission and Department of Fish and Game).

Through newsletters, brochures, the media, and in any other way that can catch the public's attention, the Foundation is already beginning to inform Californian's about our magnificent lions. The Foundation is already raising the needed funds to get these projects underway. A volunteer fundraising group in Monterey has generously offered their time and services to help save California's lions. The group helped the Foundation develop a phone bank solicitation effort in Monterey which has extended to other cities including San Francisco and Marin. Their goal is to raise \$25,000 by the end of the year. More than 60 volunteers have participated in the phone bank.

The Foundation will be developing the future newsletters and will keep you abreast of their activities. If you would like more information regarding the Foundation or wish to contribute please write to: The Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation, P.O. Box 1896, Sacramento, California 95809.

Editorial

Why another organization you may ask?

Let me assess why I believe the work of the Foundation is essential to the protection of mountain lions.

As the polls suggest, Californian's abhor trophy hunting. In our alerts and letters (and in our recent phone banks in the Bay Area and Monterey) we have often stated that we want to protect lions from senseless and needless killing. What do we mean "senseless and needless?" Since we represent a broad range of people concerned about the welfare of our wildlife, I believe the phrase reflects the spectrum of interests. "Senseless," for those individuals who oppose the killing of any animal for sport, even if the animal, like deer, is consumed for food.

The shooting of mountain lions is inhumane and should never take place.

For those individuals who believe trophy hunting is "needless"—who do not oppose hunting of wildlife and may participate in some form of hunting or fishing—the thought of chasing mountain lions with a pack of hounds and then killing it at point blank range for no other purpose than a trophy offends their sense of what the challenge of the "hunt" is all about and makes the value of our wildlife frivolous and unnecessary to protect.

To paraphrase Aldo Leopold, a

hunter and a renown ecologist, the trophy recreationist cannot appreciate what he cannot possess. Yet, by possessing the very thing he covets he destroys its inherent value.

We kill mountain lions for sport in the United States simply because they exist! There really is no other reason. Because of this fact and because the "game managers" understand the public attitudes toward trophy hunting, they seek to disguise the lion trophy hunting issue with "wildlife management" jargon.

Because Man dominates the environment he has to "manage" the environment for those other species he shares it with, but on his terms. For example because we have destroyed so much deer habitat for our use, we must create "new" habitat and then manage the number of deer on that habitat or range so that it is not destroyed by the very deer for which it is managed. Another example is that we raise millions of fish annually in hatcheries, since we have destroyed thousand of miles of natural spawning grounds.

So why do we have to shoot mountain lions? Game managers tell us for the following reasons:

(1) From time to time lions eat livestock. (Laws already exist that allow lions to be killed when they are

a nuisance to livestock.)

(2) Lions eat deer! (North Kings proposal: kill the lions that eat the deer, so there will be more deer available to be killed by sport hunters, in order to keep the deer from eating themselves out of their present limited range!?)

(3) Lions are a threat to humans. ("Big Bad Wolf & Horrible Grizzly Bear syndrome.")

Trophy hunting will not reduce livestock depredation. It has not in the other western states that have trophy hunting seasons. Lions are not a threat to their natural prey deer, but man certainly is. The destruction of the deer (and lion) habitat is the greatest threat to the survival of these wild animals. Finally, a mountain lion is less a threat to humans than the neighborhood dog, a raccoon, or a park squirrel.

I believe with a little bit of work the Foundation can convince the public that the "management rationale" that supports the necessity to kill lions for sport is without basis in truth and logic. Once the public understands that the only reason we shoot lions is for fun, I think we have won the battle to protect lions from a senseless and needless trophy hunting season.

Bill Yeates

Coalition Team Helps To Kill Bad Lion Legislation

Assembly Member Norm Waters' AB 947 and AB 3889 died in the 1986 Legislative Session thanks to the efforts of many including Senator Robert Presley, Chairman of Senate Natural Resource & Wildlife Committee (NR&W) and the author of SB 76—legislation that extended protections for California's mountain lions in 1985.

AB 3889, sponsored by the livestock industry contained provisions giving the Department of Fish &

Game authority to regulate the killing of lions depredating on livestock—the same provisions the Commission adopted in January. The bill was heard in NR&W in July and was defeated on a 5-1 vote. Senator Presley made it clear during the hearing that if anyone was to carry a bill addressing the depredation issue it should be him (Presley's bill, SB 76, carried depredation provisions supported by the livestock industry but the bill was vetoed by the

Governor last year.) Bill Yeates, lobbyist for the Coalition, Mark Palmer of the Sierra Club, and Virginia Handley representing the Fund For Animals opposed AB 3889 in Senator Presley's committee.

AB 947 held over from last year was never brought up for a hearing. The bill was sponsored by the trophy hunting enthusiasts and was opposed by the Coalition and other member organizations.

Foresthill Area Divide Update

At the April Fish and Game Commission hearing the Coalition opposed the second year implementation of a 5 year Department of Fish and Game Plan to kill 5 lions annually in the Foresthill Divide area in Placer County. The stated purpose of this plan is to kill up to five lions annually to reduce damage to sheep during a defined grazing season. The plan's objective was to reduce the annual loss of sheep by mountain lions by "at least 50%."

The 50% reduction in livestock losses was achieved after the first year and the Coalition was strongly opposed to continued killing of lions. But the Commission, in spite of the facts and ignoring strong public opposition, approved the plan in April.

Fortunately as of October no lions have been killed pursuant to this plan. Terri Mansfield of the Department of Fish & Game stated that no lions will be killed until the next grazing season (July-September).

One lion was killed in the area pursuant to a depredation permit that was issued and not as a result of the Plan.

Interestingly, the U.S. Forest Service recently did a track survey in the area and found few lion tracks! The only tracks they found were of a female and 2 cubs.

Recent Activities

□ The Coalition's first fundraising event was a tremendous success. Held in Sacramento in August, the event featured Assembly Member Phil Isenberg, wildlife art exhibits, and a mountain lion video presentation. More than 120 people attended the event which raised \$4,000.

□ The Coalition, with the help of Sheri Bell of Elsa Wild Animal Appeal, succeeded in finding a home for a female lion and her 10 week old cub in a home at Hogel Zoo in Salt Lake City. Captured by the Department of Fish & Game in the same location where the Orange County attack on a small child occurred, the Department was unable to relocate the lions and would have destroyed the animals because they have no means to cover the cost of keeping them. The Coalition is also providing assistance to the Monterey SPCA in finding a home for a lion cub whose mother was killed.

Special Acknowledgements

★ The Coalition and the Foundation sincerely thank Ron Garren and his men's group in Monterey who dedicated their time and expertise to help raise needed funds for the Foundation.

★ A special thank you to organizations for their help with the phone banks and/or T-Shirt sales, including: Fund For Animals, Sierra Club—including the Ventana and the Mother Lode Chapters, Monterey Audubon Society, Marin Humane Society, Action for Animals, Marin Conservation League and the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin.

★ We would also like to acknowledge all those who volunteered for our phone banks. Your support and dedication will make the difference.

Thank you!!

Lion Facts

✓ 72 lion depredations were reported from January through July of 1986 and 35 lions were killed as a result.

✓ In 1983, 55 people were casualties of sport hunting; 4 adults and 1 child fatally.

Letters Needed!! Let Your Opposition Be Known

The Fish and Game Commission will once again be deciding whether or not to reinstate trophy hunting of lions back into California after 14 years of protection.

Please write to the Commission and your local legislator and let them know you are strongly opposed to

trophy hunting of this magnificent and majestic animal.

Write:

Brian Kahn, President
Fish & Game Commission
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Your local legislator
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Your Skills Are Needed

The Foundation needs people to help carry out their programs. If you are interested in donating your services, please fill out the form below and send it back to us as soon as possible. Your help will be invaluable!!

YES, I would like to volunteer my services. I can help with the following

- typing photography word processing
 film production/presentation writing fundraising
 media donating office supplies (we need a good typewriter!)
 working in the Sacramento office Other, please specify

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Please mail to: The Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation
POB 1896, Sacramento, CA 95814

T-Shirt Order Form

quantity	size: S, M, L, XL	color-1st choice	amount—\$10.60 ea
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