

# COUGAR NEWS

THE MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION

P.O. BOX 1896 • SACRAMENTO, CA 95812 • 916/442-2666

## SHAMELESS DECISION BY FISH & GAME COMMISSION

*They vote to continue bobcat trapping*

**T**he Mountain Lion Foundation has activated a campaign to stop the commercial trapping of bobcats. In April, the California Fish and Game Commission approved the 1992-93 Mammal Hunting and Trapping Regula-

nature, are killed for their skins. Commercial trappers export them to Europe for fur coats.

Tragically, during the past ten years over 78,000 bobcats were mercilessly trapped and killed on California's *public and private* wildlands.

commercial trappers? Isn't it time to change our wildlife management policies that sell wild animals to the highest bidder, in lieu of protecting our wildlife heritage for the benefit of all?

It is imperative that we challenge this shameless decision.

*They once again defy public opinion and allow a small group to profit shamelessly for the vanity of a few.*

tions. As part of these regulations, commercial bobcat trapping will continue with no changes from last season.

Appalled by the Commission's refusal to consider our request for a ban, the Mountain Lion Foundation went into action. We delivered 853 letters and 2,333 postcards urging protection for bobcats (with more still coming in at this writing). The Commission had two options: would they act responsibly and choose to protect our rich wildlife heritage? Or would they once again defy public opinion and allow a small group to profit shamelessly for the vanity of a few?

These wonderful animals, who help maintain the balance in

Population figures for bobcat numbers in California are unknown. The California Department of Fish and Game estimates a population of 70,000-74,000 breeding adult bobcats based on a computer model and "harvest" data and asserts that up to 14,400 bobcats can be killed statewide without significant impact on the population. Based on Department of Fish and Game information, there does not appear to be a biological problem with the status of the bobcat. The real issue is an ethical and philosophical difference over the protection of our wildlife. Why does the commission continue to allow our precious wildlife heritage to be slaughtered by a small handful of

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Write the Governor and your elected representatives to protest commercial trapping of bobcats for fur. *Write today!*  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### INSIDE...

CELEBRATE THE  
WILD SIDE—  
with Nature's Magic Day!

*Don't forget to reserve  
your special copy of  
Cougar: The American Lion  
Due out Fall 1992!*



*Working together, nature's magic has a chance.*

*design by Gini Crepps*

## CELEBRATE NATURE'S MAGIC

On June 20th and 21st, 1992 (the first weekend of summer), The Mountain Lion Foundation invites you to celebrate the two-year anniversary of Proposition 117, the Mountain Lion Initiative.

The success of Proposition 117 was due in large part to **YOUR** tireless volunteer efforts and financial contributions. Everyone worked hard to preserve and protect our wondrous wilderness,

### SO LET'S CELEBRATE THE MAGIC OF IT ALL!

Gather up your friends and family. Invite co-workers, students, seniors too!

Be a part of what you worked and care so much for! **HERE'S HOW:**

Ask people to sponsor you for Nature's Magic Day. Walk, bike, hike, get together, and, perhaps, clean up our rivers—or what about our parkways!

*(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COORDINATE A GROUP EFFORT IN YOUR AREA, PLEASE CALL 916/442-2666—ASK FOR KIM)*

#### YOUR GOAL IS TO SECURE \$117 IN PLEDGES

Then collect and return your pledges and receive the following prizes:

\$10-\$116—A commemorative Earth Day 1990 poster

\$117—Poster + a beautiful "1990 and Beyond" T-Shirt

\$118 and up—Poster + T-shirt + an autographed copy of *Dances With Wolves*

Deadline for pledge returns: July 31, 1992

*Thousands of others will be symbolically joining together to celebrate Nature's Magic Day*

### "CELEBRATE NATURE'S MAGIC" PLEDGE FORM

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

*Examples (amounts may be changed): \$2 per mile that you hike or bike, OR \$1 per hour at your favorite nature spot (for the physically challenged)*

Name	Phone No.	Amount pledged per hour or mile	Date collected
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Send with your pledge money to Mountain Lion Foundation,  
P.O. Box 1896, Sacramento, CA 95812

Prop. 117 banned the trophy killing of cougars in California and allocated \$30 million per year for habitat acquisitions.

#### **BUT DID YOU KNOW:**

- The Mountain Lion Foundation does not receive funding from Prop. 117
- The Mountain Lion Foundation oversees the management of Prop. 117
- The Mountain Lion Foundation is called upon daily to address media and public concerns about lions i.e.: populations, livestock problems and public safety threats
- Poaching is an ever-growing threat to lions and all wildlife
- Opponents of Prop. 117 may be working to unravel or even overturn the initiative
- Coalitions call upon us to provide technical assistance to help protect cougars in their states

*These are just a few of the reasons why the work of the Mountain Lion Foundation is important now, more than ever. We are hoping we can count on you again.*

WRITE US OR SEND PICTURES OF YOUR "Nature's Magic Day" AND WE WILL USE SELECTIONS FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER.



# CALIFORNIA DESERT PROTECTION ACT

## *The NRA Had Their Vote, Now Voice Yours*

**S**enator Alan Cranston is sponsoring the California Desert Protection Act, a major conservation measure that will establish the new East Mojave National Park in California's spectacular Mojave Desert.

The Act also expands Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments and designates each area as a national park. It further sets aside new wilderness areas on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The Mountain Lion Foundation believes the California Desert Protection Act to be the most important wildlife habitat protection measure in Congress this year.

The Yuma puma, a sub species to the mountain lion, is found in isolated mountain ranges adjacent to the Colorado River and is considered a "species of special concern" by the California Department of Fish and Game because so little is known about its habits and numbers.

However, California Senator John Seymour has joined hunting, off-road vehicle, mining and cattle interests in opposing this crucial Act. The Act has passed the House of Representatives, but only with an amendment sponsored by the National Rifle Association allowing sport hunting in the East Mojave National Park, an awful precedent.

Many environmental groups, including ours, are urging the Senate to delete the NRA amendment.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

*Letters to Senator Alan Cranston, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, thanking him for the California Desert Protection Act. This landmark conservation law is his highest priority.*

*In addition, letters to Senator John Seymour, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Urge him to RECONSIDER his position on the California Desert Protection Act.*

*Outside California, please write your two Senators at the above Washington address, urging their support for Senator Cranston's California Desert Protection Act. Request that they oppose any weakening amendments, such as the amendment that would allow sport hunting in National Parks!*



*photo by Don Briggs*

## **Habitat Heritage Act Makes Headway**

Assemblymember Jackie Speier has introduced Assembly Bill 2876, the Habitat Heritage Act, which would 1) identify the status of wildlife habitat in California, 2) identify steps being taken to preserve such habitat, and 3) program specific recommendations to further preserve wildlife habitat. The Mountain Lion Foundation is a leading supporter of AB 2876, recognizing that habitat loss and degradation

is the major threat facing mountain lions and other wildlife in California today.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO:**

Write your Assemblymember and your State Senator in support of AB 2876. *Write today!*

Assemblymember \_\_\_\_\_  
Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### ◆ IN APPRECIATION ◆

The MLF gratefully acknowledges generous donations made in memory of **Dorothy James, Thor Skouras, and Dorothy Kent.** These heartfelt gifts enable us to continue to promote the preservation and understanding of the California cougar and its habitat.



# LEGISLATURE HELPS AND HINDERS ILLEGAL HUNTING

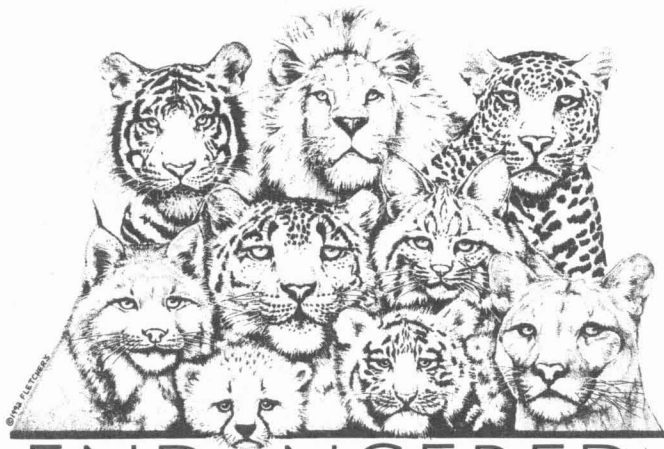
The Mountain Lion Foundation opposed AB 3432 by Assemblymember David Knowles. The bill would have required public notice of the location and time of operations of Dept. of Fish and Game roadblocks. The purpose of such roadblocks is to catch people who are illegally taking wildlife. Giving advance notice to criminals would make a warden's job more difficult and increase the danger.

After our testimony and at our request, the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee defeated AB 3432.

The Foundation strongly supports SB 1332 by Senator Frank Hill, sponsored by the Performing Animal Welfare Society and the Fund for Animals, which prohibits raising and selling wildlife species in captivity for the purpose of hunting. Sportsmen agree with us that these "canned hunts," in which animals are kept in captivity to be shot at close range or released and shot, are wrong! Zoos and other educational organizations will not be held responsible for third-party sales of wildlife through brokers.



Fill out order form, clip and return with your payment in enclosed brochure envelope



# ENDANGERED

Beautiful, full-color image. Printed on your choice of ash or peach colored 100% cotton T-shirt.

**Only \$19.95**

Great! Please send me:

\_\_\_ "Endangered" (ash colored) T-shirt(s)  
Small  Medium  Large  X-Large

\_\_\_ "Endangered" (peach colored) T-shirt(s)  
Small  Medium  Large  X-Large

T-shirt total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$2 shipping per shirt: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$1.55 sales tax per shirt: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my credit card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mountain Lion Foundation  
P.O. Box 1896  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #38  
Sacramento, CA