



MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION REVIEW

Summer 2010

A selection of just some of the stories found at www.mountainlion.org

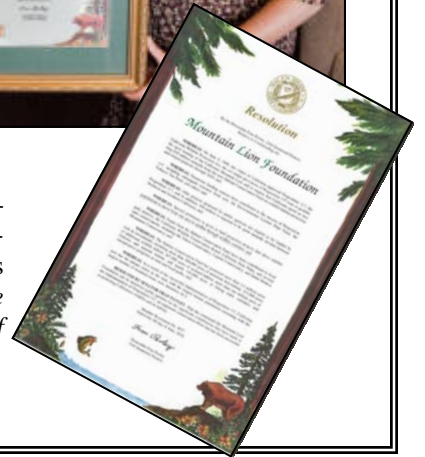
California Celebrates Twenty Years of Wildlife Protection

On June 30th, California State Senator Fran Pavley (D-Santa Monica) presented Mountain Lion Foundation Board Chairman, Toby Cooper with a Senate resolution commemorating the Foundation's "significant contributions" to the passage and implementation of the California Wildlife Protection Act of 1990 ([Proposition 117](#)). [The resolution recognizes the accomplishments achieved through Proposition 117](#), a landmark initiative passed by California voters twenty years ago. The initiative was the first to qualify for the statewide ballot strictly through the efforts of unpaid volunteers – many of which were, and remain, proud members of MLF. It also classified mountain lions as a "specially protected mammal" in California thus safe from being killed for fun, and created the Habitat Conservation Fund which acquires and protects habitat for all of California's wildlife.



MLF staff enjoyed visiting Senator Pavley's office in the capitol, posing for pictures, and casually chatting about the new mountain lion kittens in the Santa Monica Mountains. Senator Pavley also mentioned that in her district, "the Habitat Conservation Fund has helped acquire land and protect habitat and native species in areas including Topanga Canyon, Franklin Canyon Park, and Malibu Creek State Park just to name a few."

More than 2.2 million acres of wildlife habitat have been protected in California because of Proposition 117. The resolution is, in part, the State's way of saying thank you to MLF's dedicated volunteers who helped gather signatures and promote the passage of the initiative all those years ago. Because of their efforts to protect wildlife, the Resolution notes "California now has the unique status as the state with the largest human population coexisting with the largest number of mountain lions."



See a [color copy](#) of Senator Pavley's resolution on the "All Things Lion" page of MLF's website.

California's Central Coast First Responders Get Help

After public outcry over the shooting death of a mountain lion by police officers in San Luis Obispo, California, the Mountain Lion Foundation and Animal Rescue Team Inc. teamed up to help local First Responders and wildlife officers prepare for future wildlife encounters. The hour-long presentation given by Robin Parks, attended by over 30 participants from the First Responder community, focused on explaining the dangers that mountain lions present while offering solutions that are both humane and safe.

Mr. Parks argued that most agencies' responses to mountain lions are completely out of proportion to their actual threat, and, he said, ". . . new guidelines should be developed to handle encounters. At the end of the day, it's rarely necessary to kill the cat, because there are often other options to get them back into the wild."



Over all the information was enthusiastically received, with many of the participants wanting additional help with what they see as a growing trend as human development expands further into lion country.

One of the participants was Lieutenant Steve Tolley of the San Luis Obispo Police Department. Lt. Tolley has already responded to two mountain lion encounters, both of which ended in the death of the animals. "Nobody wanted to do that, but we had an obligation for the safety of the people around us," he explained. "It gives me a lot to think about. We do need guidelines to deal with (them). We're not the experts, and hopefully they will help us develop a policy."

MLF wants to give a special thanks to Robin Parks who, as a MLF Field Volunteer, has been making these presentations to law enforcement officials in California for several years now.

MLF Goes Digital

For the past eighteen months MLF has focused a lot of its mountain lion activist efforts through the expansion of its website at www.mountainlion.org. Our goal is to create a virtual location which is not only a major repository of mountain lion facts and data, but is also the central hub of regionally relevant material needed to assist local lion activists in their fight to save America's lions.

An integral part of MLF's work is directed towards providing supporters like you with timely updates, the latest lion news stories, and political commentary at the speed which best compliments your individual lifestyle. By signing up for MLF's Outreach Services via [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or our [weekly e-mail messaging](#), you not only stay current on the Nation's major lion stories, you find out what MLF and other activists are doing about them.

Of course providing MLF supporters with information in this format saves the Foundation money, but more important is the issue of keeping you in the loop, rather than telling you about it months later in a newsletter such as this.

EXTRA BONUS FOR WEB VISITORS: Specially selected chapters of MLF's iconic, but sadly out of print, book [Cougar: The American Lion](#) are now available in the "[Mountain Lion Facts](#)" section on [MLF's website](#).

South Dakota's "2 + 2 = 5" Mountain Lion Population Estimate Error

Before the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks (SDGF&P) released their 2010-2015 Mountain Lion Management Plan for public review maybe they should have hired a mathematician to double check the mathematical formulas being used by Department biologists to justify killing more mountain lions.



Thanks to MLF's Outreach Coordinator, Amy Rodrigues, the major premise for the Plan's lion reduction proposal has been clearly demonstrated to the world as either another example of bureaucratic bungling, or possibly even a conspiracy to justify actions desired by many special interest hunting groups.

South Dakota's new Plan calls for reducing the state's mountain lion population by about 80 to 100 cats in order to bring their estimated population total down from an approximated 251 lions to only 150 to 170 mountain lions. They came up with this number by assuming several facts which aren't in evidence and by miscalculating the simple mathematical formula needed to prove their point.

Back in 1889, the first time South Dakota had a mountain lion "management plan" they managed to eradicate the species from the entire state in 17 years. I wonder how long it will take to achieve the same results on their still-recovering lion population if this new "management" plan is approved unchanged.

To read [Amy's story](#), as well as other articles and comments MLF prepared to help South Dakota lion activists respond properly, go to the [South Dakota State Page](#) on [MLF's website](#).

MLF's Celebrating the American Lion Project

Saturday, June 5, 2010 was the 20th anniversary of the passage of California's Proposition 117 - the Mountain Lion Initiative. Unfortunately, protection for lions in America has not advanced beyond those won in Proposition 117. If anything it has gotten worse. The only voices being heard by the state wildlife agencies are those ranting about diminishing deer herds and rampaging predators.

In a nationwide effort to promote the American lion, the Mountain Lion Foundation implemented its "Celebrating the American Lion" project.

The Celebrating the American Lion project has two goals:

First, raise the national awareness to the plight facing lions in America, and change the preponderance of language used in media coverage

from "dangerous animal" to "keystone species" whose existence is critical for healthy wilderness ecosystems.

Second, demonstrate "critical mass." Individual lion protection advocates are generally outnumbered and out-shouted at the public hearings held by state game agencies. The CTAL project will have a multiplier effect which is currently unavailable to most lion protection proponents.

To date, 35 conservation organizations based in 13 states, have joined with MLF in forming a coalition to promote mountain lions to our fellow Americans. You can find out just what these groups are accomplishing at www.americanlion.org.



BREAKING NEWS: CDFG's Lion Policies Kill Another Kitten



MLF just learned that California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) misguided lion policies have resulted in another death of a mountain lion kitten. According to witnesses, the kitten was a 7 to 9 month old female, not apparently afraid of humans, and it was rolling and playing before being confronted by humans. Bystanders threw a couple rocks at it trying to get it to leave but it did not do so. The warden said he had no choice but to follow policies given to him by headquarters and kill the kitten. He was not happy about it, but he said he had no choice but to follow those orders because it was after hours and he could not get anyone to say anything different. Currently CDFG has a standing policy to kill any lion - regardless of age - if it comes into contact with humans and does not leave the area of its own volition.

Mountain Lion Foundation Fiscal Year 2009/10 Financial Overview

Income	\$ 255,816.00		
Expenses	\$ 259,666.00		
Net Income	\$ (3,850.00)		
		% of Income	% of Expense
Program Expenses	\$ 226,361.41	88.5%	87.2%
Administrative	\$ 19,114.52	7.5%	7.4%
Fundraising	\$ 14,017.66	5.5%	5.4%
		101.4%	100.0%

