A shocking discovery in Monterey County

Last fall, the Mountain Lion Foundation began building a case for a new Anti-poaching Campaign in California to address the illegal slaughter of mountain lions and other wildlife. A recent tragedy in Monterey County proves the need for action and also provides an example of what the Mountain Lion Foundation can do to help.

On April 23rd, Floyd and Dawn Patterson, owners of a ranch near Lockwood, were charged with 49 counts of violating California poaching laws. It was revealed that the Pattersons had been hosting illegal “hunts” of large exotic cats on their ranch. When the state Department of Fish and Game (DFG) agents finished their investigations, the horrors of the so-called hunts were appalling: hunters paid up to $3,000 each to shoot, at close range and often still in cages, two rare Bengal tigers, a leopard, a black jaguar, and several illegally trapped mountain lions.

Some of the victims were tranquilized. Others refused to leave their cages and were shot at point blank range. None made it more than 100 feet before being gunned down. Several of these exotic cat species are on the federal endangered species list, facing extinction due to hunting, predator control and habitat loss in their native countries. Several cats were apparently surplus zoo animals.

As the first newspaper stories appeared, the Mountain Lion Foundation moved into action. We provided the District Attorney in Monterey County with detailed information on the species involved, for instance:

- Why they are important.
- Why the Endangered Species Act protects them.

We also provided specifics about Proposition 117, which bans sport hunting of mountain lions in California.

Michael Blake, author of Dances With Wolves and a member of the Mountain Lion Foundation’s Honorary Board, suggested addressing the community and scheduling a memorial service for these animals that were ruthlessly killed for fun and profit. We agreed, and less than a week after the first announcement, over 200 people gathered at Lover’s Point in Pacific Grove for a touching service in memory of the animals. Along with Michael Blake, Mountain Lion Foundation founder Margaret Owings, Board member Scott Hennessy, local conservationist Jo Stallard, and

MEMORIAL GIFTS

- From Walter Thomson in memory of Holly Thomson
- From Shirley Bonney and the Bonney family in memory of Lee E. Vaughn
- From Ed and Lola Russell in memory of Lee E. Vaughn
- From John & Alice Vacca in memory of Lee E. Vaughn
- From Josephine Rose in memory of Lee E. Vaughn
- From George Kirk in memory of Lee E. Vaughn

The Mountain Lion Foundation thanks these friends and wishes to express our deepest sympathies to their families.

Memorial gifts help us to ensure that mountain lions and other wildlife survive and thrive for future generations to enjoy.

INSIDE...

Your 1992 Nature's View Calendar

COMPLIMENTS OF YOUR FRIENDS AT THE MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION

Continued on page 7
Several new bills which will provide new funds for environmental and wildlife programs, especially protection for wildlife habitat, have been endorsed by the Mountain Lion Foundation and are moving through the state legislative process.

• **AB 281 (by Assemblyman William Filante)**
  This bill reauthorizes the Endangered Species Tax Check-off on the state income tax form, whereby donors can give voluntary contributions to programs protecting endangered species. The Endangered Species Tax Check-off generates over $1 million a year for wildlife. The Mountain Lion Foundation is leading the support for AB 281.

• **SB 514 (by Senator Milton Marks)**
  SB 514 raises the fees on purchasing and renewing a personal “vanity” license plate by $5, and places the new funds in the Environmental License Plate Fund for environmental and wildlife programs. Almost one-half of the fund provides dollars to nongame and environmental work of the Department of Fish and Game. The increased fees should generate over $5 million annually for habitat protection and endangered species.
  
  The Mountain Lion Foundation and the Planning and Conservation League have championed this bill for several years.

• **SB 959 (by Senator Robert Presley)**
  This bill will place a new fee on urban water use to generate over $200 million annually.
  Two-thirds of the funds will be used to support the Clean Water Program, and one-third will go to protect fish and water-dependent wildlife.
  This is one of the most important wildlife bills in Sacramento, yet it is strongly opposed by water agencies and cities around the state.
  Support for the bill is being led by the Planning and Conservation League and the Mountain Lion Foundation.

Letters of support for these bills can be sent to your state Senator and Assemblymember (if you do not know who your state legislators are, call your local Registrar of Voters or look in your phone book), c/o State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.
The Mountain Lion Foundation has a new name and a new Mission Statement to guide our future work on behalf of mountain lions, wildlife, and their habitat. In April, the Board of Directors shortened our name to the “Mountain Lion Foundation” and adopted our new Mission Statement (see sidebar) as the first steps in an ongoing long-range planning effort.

With the passage of Proposition 117 in June 1990, the Mountain Lion Foundation achieved a major goal of giving permanent protection to California mountain lions from sport trophy hunting.

The Board of Directors adopted four immediate priorities for our conservation program, based on internal discussions and our surveys of our supporters across the country. Our four priorities are:

1) Implement Proposition 117, to be sure all parts of this landmark law are followed by the state.
2) Protect habitat, through Proposition 117 and through other efforts to identify important lands so mountain lions and other wildlife will thrive.
3) Develop an antipoaching campaign to deter the illegal killing of mountain lions and other wildlife.
4) Rebuild the California Department of Fish and Game to be more responsive to the needs of wildlife and habitat.

The Mountain Lion Foundation has now established a number of different campaigns and programs to address these goals. In this edition of THE COUGAR NEWS, and in future editions, we will be reporting on our successes and continuing efforts.

But we also continue to plan for the future and take advantage of new trends and events that can help us fulfill our mission.

As always, your help is needed in these efforts. We depend on your time, efforts, donations, and suggestions for our future success. Without your individual help, the Mountain Lion Foundation could not have achieved so much, nor could we look to the future to achieve so much more.

Please continue to send us your thoughts about our work and the direction you think we should take in the future. Write to us at the address on the cover.

And thank you for your continuing support.

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**OUR MISSION**

They move in the wilderness, sleek and quiet. They are elusive, wild, powerful, beautiful. They are symbolic of our vanishing wilderness, of the beauty and majesty of the American frontier. And they are being lost at a frightening rate.

The wolf, the grizzly and the jaguar are all but gone. Only the mountain lion, known by many names—cougar, puma, the American lion—survives in the West in any numbers. Our last great predator, challenging us to live in harmony with nature.

What will we save if we save mountain lions? We will save an animal that has endured human persecution and natural forces and still retains the magic of woods and fields and wildlands growing in former days before the advent of Europeans. We will be saving many other species of life, both plants and animals, legions of fellow travelers on earth who share and depend on the habitat of mountain lions. But most of all, we will be saving ourselves—if we can save mountain lions and their habitat, we will be saving land and wildlife for our children to wander through, to study, to enjoy, and to receive inspiration from.

The Mountain Lion Foundation preserves mountain lions and their wilderness habitats, ensures that our wildlife treasures endure as a vibrant heritage for future generations, and celebrates the beauty, the splendor, and the mystery of wild America and all its inhabitants.
I didn’t know what lay ahead when my friend, Mike Smith, recruited me to gather signatures for a “well-meaning” wildlife campaign. The senseless sport hunting of cougars outraged me, so when Proposition 117 needed help to qualify and win the election, I said, “Sure, why not? I’ve got some free time!” I had never done volunteer work before, but this was a cause I really believed in.

So here it is two years later and I continue to find volunteering for the Mountain Lion Foundation a rewarding and educational experience. When we receive mail from members saying, “Keep up the good work,” it gives me real satisfaction. Knowing we are helping to save the mountain lion from being eliminated from its native habitat while informing the public on mountain lion myths is a challenge, especially from a volunteer’s perspective. But there are so many people who care and it is always a warm feeling to be a part of it.

I’ve had the privilege of working alongside some interesting people who are dedicated to protecting the mountain lion, and through them I’ve seen the value of taking a stand to save this important species. What amazes me is all the projects that are accomplished in that little blue Victorian house in downtown Sacramento. Such a small staff does so much. There’s Mark Palmer, running from the Capitol to the Department of Fish & Game or on the phone with the media. Carsynn Costa—her sweet and caring smile and swift skills keep things in the office tuned and running smoothly. I never see Kevin Hansen much; he is in the back with his nose in a book or computer. I can hear Sue West, hammering away on her habitat document. And Kim Klein is always on the phone, discussing a program with a vendor or coming up with another project for a volunteer.

There always seems to be something for volunteers to do. Filling gift orders, throughout the year and especially during the holidays, using typing skills for data entry work, and the mounds of take-home projects, which I found can be done on a Sunday afternoon watching football with my supportive husband, Bill. Even when performing the smallest task, the whole staff makes one feel appreciated.

In addition to the ongoing volunteer projects that a person can participate in, there are special events like exhibits, fairs, educational field trips and public conferences. An unforgettable moment for me happened while I was volunteering at a public event in Sacramento. Michael Blake, the featured speaker, was on his way to the stage when Kim commandeered him to the volunteer table and introduced us. His genuineness was evident when he shook our hands and actually thanked us for our commitment and energy in helping the mountain lion.

I now know that whether stamping envelopes or speaking to a crowd of 500, each volunteer plays a part in helping the Mountain Lion Foundation achieve its vision.
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Cougar Pin
Distinctive and Classy.
The graceful lines accent lapels, scarfs, or neckties.
Silver plate or gold plate.
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Twilight Crossing Holiday Greeting Card
Delicate purple tinted painting. Inside greeting “May Peace and Hope be with you through this joyous season.” Printed on recycled paper. Pack of 12. $7.95

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Cougar Canvas Bag
Versatile carryall for groceries, school books, or just about anything. 100% natural cotton canvas. Silhouetted moonlight crossing in teal & violet. $11.95

#910
Baby Cougar Book
A Golden Look Look Nature Book. Nestle up with little ones for a good night story of Baby Cougar. $4.95

#900
Dances with Wolves by Michael Blake
You sat spellbound through the movie. Now live the epic adventure of Lt. John Dunbar’s western frontier. Life at the edge of civilization, full of inspiration, romance, and self discovery. Dances with Wolves will take you on a courageous historical journey that we continue to learn from. This special edition is dedicated to the Mountain Lion Foundation. $19.95

#460
Bolo Tie
New Southwestern Jewelry! Handcrafted for cougar lovers everywhere. Available in silver plate or gold plate with black vinyl rope. Ideal for the sophisticated dresser on your list. $19.95

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1990 & Beyond Tee
This 1990 & Beyond T-shirt illustrates the cougar in a special Earth Day cameo appearance. 100% cotton, black only. Full color image. S, M, L, XL $12.95

#200
1990 Celebration Poster
Irresistible full color photo by National Geographic photographer Jim Dutcher. Mother cougar keeps watch over her curious cub. $5.95. We’ll send a second poster to a friend for an additional $4.00

#300
Protect T-Shirt
Complement every wardrobe with sea foam green, earth tone tan or sky blue 100% cotton tee. S, M, L, XL $8.95

#210
Baby Cougar Book
A Golden Look Look Nature Book. Nestle up with little ones for a good night story of Baby Cougar. $4.95

#100
Puma Pack
Attractive portraits feature the cougar in many modes. Designed on rich woven recycled paper. 10 different images with matching envelopes. $7.95

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One Year "Adoption" Fee is $25.00

The "Adopt-A-Lion" program gives friends like you a means to help protect this majestic predator while learning more about their behavior, characteristics and range. "Adopt" one for a friend or family member. They make terrific gifts. Because of the mountain lion's elusive nature, we can't track each lion.

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FIGHT FOR 1991-92
PROPOSITION 117 BUDGET

A lame duck, not-too-environmental Governor; a serious state fiscal situation; legislators who substitute grandstanding for serious fiscal policy work—take these elements and put them all together and it spells T-R-O-U-B-L-E for funding wildlife habitat protection as mandated by Proposition 117.

Throughout the budget storm, the Mountain Lion Foundation worked to maintain the integrity of Proposition 117—and won some victories along the way.

Proposition 117, in addition to protecting mountain lions from sport trophy hunting, requires the state to spend $30 million annually to protect habitat for mountain lions, deer, endangered species, wetlands, wildlife corridors, and riparian areas.

Problems occurred immediately when retiring Governor George Deukmejian publicly released his draft budget on January 15th, 1991. Many of the projects proposed for Proposition 117 expenditures only marginally involved wildlife habitat protection. The most egregious item was a proposal to spend $1 million of "habitat money" on studies of stream gravel by the Department of Water Resources. Proposition 117 specifies which state agencies funding should go to—the Department of Water Resources (DWR) wasn't one of them. Furthermore, the purpose of studying stream gravels by DWR was not to save fish habitat—it was to determine how much water could be diverted for agricultural use without violating state laws protecting fisheries.

The overall state fiscal situation declined drastically in the face of economic recession and state budget structural problems which mandated spending for welfare and education. Although funding for Proposition 117 comes from special funds like the cigarette tax (Proposition 99), the Environmental License Plate Fund, and past park bond measures, the measure still fell prey to the infighting and budget cutting frenzy that ensued as the state’s projected budget shortfall neared $15 billion.

Politics also played a role. While the Senate Budget Subcommittee, chaired by Senator Dan McCorquodale, worked closely with the Mountain Lion Foundation and other conservationists to make budget cuts and adjustments, the Assembly Ways and Means Budget Subcommittee attacked Proposition 117 requirements, threatening not to fund wildlife habitat protections mandated by the voters and thus provoke a legal confrontation.

Through all the fuss and muss, the Mountain Lion Foundation maintained a cool head and a commitment to both wildlife and fiscal responsibility. For example, the Foundation accepted several questionable expenditures for Proposition 117 in the spirit of cooperation and compromise during a year of budget crisis. We further suggested a number of cost-cutting measures aimed at getting rid of bad environmental programs. One such suggestion from the Mountain Lion Foundation, accepted by both Budget Subcommittees, saved the Fish and Game Preservation Fund over $500,000.

Thanks to the support of Senator McCorquodale, the proposed $1 million stream gravel study was changed to a $1 million acquisition of riparian habitat along the Upper Sacramento River. This area is prime wildlife habitat. Only 1-1/2% of California’s riparian forests in the Central Valley still exist in a natural state. These forests play host to the endangered Yellow-billed Cuckoo and other rare species.

Despite protests from some legislators, the Proposition 117 budget was finally approved intact by the legislature. It was a sweet victory for wildlife and the Mountain Lion Foundation!

The Mountain Lion Foundation is still working on several legislative measures to provide more protection for wildlife habitat and funding for Proposition 117.
California Governor Pete Wilson has endorsed protection of wildlife habitat and parks through a new program entitled “Resourceful California,” announced on Earth Day 1991. His proposal requires legislative and voter approval of a $628 million park and wildlife bond for the 1992 ballot.

The Mountain Lion Foundation and other conservation groups had been developing a proposed initiative bond of their own. With the Governor’s support of a legislative bond, the state legislature is expected to approve the measure so that conservation groups will not have to go to the expense of mounting a petition campaign.

The proposed bond will provide funds specifically for fulfilling the habitat requirements of Proposition 117, and will provide funding for the Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Parks and Recreation, and the state conservancies.

Other parts of the “Resourceful California” package include developing a River Conservation Program under the Wildlife Conservation Board, special protections for old growth forests and reform of logging practices, and regulating development of wetlands.

The Mountain Lion Foundation enthusiastically endorses “Resourceful California” and is working closely with the Governor’s Office and the Resources Agency to implement the program. It will be a huge step toward protection of our wildlife heritage.

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MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION
WISH LIST FOR AUTUMN

Many thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our supporters! Our wish list in the Spring edition of THE COUGAR NEWS brought in many new donations. We received four copies of the classic Young and Goldman book, *Puma: Mysterious American Cat*, to grace our burgeoning mountain lion library. (One of the best in the West!) We also received a number of legal sized 4-drawer file cabinets to keep up with our paperwork. Another donor graciously gave us a brand new FAX machine! Thank you one and all.

**AUTUMN WISHES**

- An IBM compatible PC
- A Macintosh computer and desktop publishing software
- A van to transport our cougar displays to parks, visitor centers, museums, and educational programs
- An A-frame ladder (8 to 10 feet)
- A small refrigerator

If you wish to donate an item, please contact Carsynn or Kim at 916/442-2666. Donations to the Mountain Lion Foundation are tax deductible.
Antipoaching (continued from page 1)

Conservation Director Mark J. Palmer spoke to the crowd with a message of sorrow for the lives lost and hope that we can join together to stop such savagery and injustice in the future. Those attending were given the addresses of the Monterey County District Attorney and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service so they could urge these agencies to take strong action against the perpetrators. Donated pine seedlings were handed out to attendees to plant in the animals’ honor.

The Mountain Lion Foundation further assisted the prosecution by providing legal research through our law firm, Remy and Thomas. The firm’s lawyers checked on past endangered species cases that would help prosecute the case. Remy and Thomas repeatedly won earlier cases to stop mountain lion sport hunting.

In the final weeks of the trial, while the jury and judge were considering the case, the Mountain Lion Foundation mounted a major letter-writing campaign on behalf of the prosecution. Over 230 letters from people around California, many from local residents of Monterey County, were handed over to the judge by the District Attorney in summing up the evidence and the need for strong sanctions against the perpetrators.

On June 25th, the jury handed down a verdict of guilty on all counts. Shortly after, the judge handed down stiff fines and jail terms. Floyd and Dawn Patterson were fined a total of $42,300. Floyd Patterson also received a 6-month jail term; Dawn Patterson was sentenced to 200 hours of community service for her role. Other participants in this terrible crime have yet to be prosecuted, and the Pattersons have vowed to appeal their verdict.

Further action also pending involves Monterey County filing a $1 million civil suit seeking damages from the Pattersons for the illegal slaughter. The federal government has not yet filed their case. The Mountain Lion Foundation will continue to closely follow the developments and assist where needed.

The Patterson case illustrates how serious poaching is in California and the West. Some researchers put national poaching costs at $200 million annually in enforcement, lost wildlife, and environmental destruction. Poachers are often tied to other crimes, such as drug use and burglary. Some poaching rings use state-of-the-art electronic equipment to elude capture and arm themselves with automatic assault rifles and other sophisticated weapons.

The Mountain Lion Foundation’s Antipoaching Campaign is designed to stop poachers in their tracks. We have already worked in the state legislature to prevent proposed budget cuts that eliminate DFG wardens, the enforcement officers who help protect wildlife in the field. We were successful in working with the state legislature to ensure that although the DFG’s overall budget was cut back by over $6.7 million, none of the cuts were for law enforcement personnel. We are now working in the state legislature for more funding for DFG to help restore positions of important environmental and habitat specialists, as well as adding more wardens in critical areas. DFG has about 300 wardens statewide and they estimate that over 100 additional wardens are needed to properly cover state wildlife law enforcement issues.

In cooperation with DFG, the Mountain Lion Foundation has offered a $5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any persons caught poaching mountain lions or black bears. It was a neighbor who provided the key information for law enforcement officers to act in the Patterson case. A reward fund will help encourage key witnesses to come forward.

Currently, the Mountain Lion Foundation is seeking foundation funding for the balance of the Antipoaching Campaign. This funding will be used to provide:

1) A detailed survey and report on poaching in California, outlining specific problems and proposed solutions.

2) An educational program, using videos, slide shows, and written materials, that will encourage the public to work with the Mountain Lion Foundation and DFG to turn in poachers.

3) A special educational project focused on judges and prosecutors to urge better prosecution and sentencing of poachers. The laws are there, but are not always enforced.

This ambitious program can be used as a model for other states to encourage catching poachers around the country. We are hopeful that funding will soon be available to carry out the Antipoaching Campaign in full. Meanwhile, your donations are being used to help fund our ongoing efforts to bring poachers to justice.

GILROY MOUNTAIN LION KILLING CASE DISMISSED

In our Spring 1991 edition of COUGAR NEWS we reported on the first known violation of Proposition 117. Rancher Carol Silacci of Gilroy shot a mountain lion on her property while it was feeding on a wild pig. The Santa Clara County District Attorney in the case decided to drop all charges.

While Proposition 117 bans the killing of mountain lions for sport and restricts killing for protection of livestock, the law allows the killing of mountain lions in “self defense.” The prosecutors feel that in the Silacci case, while she was not in fact attacked or even approached by the mountain lion, a jury would probably conclude that shooting a mountain lion close to a ranch house by a woman (who was accompanied by a woman friend) was justifiable. Rather than set a bad precedent in case law against Proposition 117, the case has been dropped.
The media generally does a poor job of reporting the facts about mountain lions. In fact, recent articles and news programs continue to perpetuate the fable and folklore that shroud our American lion. Please help us strike a blow for the truth.

The Mountain Lion Foundation urges everyone who reads an inaccurate article, hears an absurd radio broadcast, or views a biased television report, to let their feelings be known by writing to the respective editor or station manager. Your letter should be kept to a page and should clearly point out the inaccuracy or bias.

Feel free to contact the Mountain Lion Foundation staff at 916/442-2666 for any technical information you may need.

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

Does your company or place of employment have a matching gift program? You can double your contributions to the Mountain Lion Foundation by providing your company with proof of your donations. Often, companies will match employee gifts to nonprofit organizations like the Mountain Lion Foundation! Please check to see if your company has a matching gift program, and put in a good word for the Mountain Lion Foundation.

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A view of this year’s cougar gifts inside!

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