LAND FOR LIFE—PROP. 117
BRINGS HOPE FOR HABITAT

While Proposition 117, the California Wildlife Protection Act, gave immediate protection to mountain lions from trophy hunting, it further mandated that $30 million be spent annually for the next 30 years to protect habitat for mountain lions, deer, and endangered species, as well as wildlife corridors, riparian and wetland areas.

Several exciting parcels of land have been purchased in the first year of implementation of Proposition 117. Everything from endangered plants to ocean vistas, and from key wetlands to rugged mountain springs will be saved as new parks, wildlife areas, and ecological reserves. The habitat funding is providing important opportunities for cooperation between such organizations as The Nature Conservancy, Big Sur Land Trust, California Waterfowl Association, and the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation, as well as many government agencies. The areas protected by Proposition 117 funds include:

- New Garland Ranch Addition, Monterey County: The first parcel purchased by Proposition 117 funds, this acreage was added to the oak woodlands of Garland Ranch Park under the direction of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. The endangered Smith’s blue butterfly is a resident species of the area.

- Santa Monica Mountains, Los Angeles County: $10 million a year for the first ten years of Proposition 117 money is earmarked for buying critical mountain lion and deer habitat in fast-growing southern California’s coastal Santa Monica Mountains, habitat to a remnant population of mountain lions.

- Central Valley Wetlands: The key to preserving waterfowl of the Pacific Flyway and a number of rare and endangered species like the bald eagle and the giant garter snake is to preserve a network of wetland areas throughout the Sacramento/San Joaquin Valley. $2 million of funding

CALIFORNIA WILDLANDS need your help!

Conservation organizations are developing an important bond act for the 1992 ballot which contains funding for purchase of old growth forests and other related wildlife habitat. The Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation is proposing $175 million in funds to purchase critical deer, mountain lion, endangered species and riparian habitats in the state. Watch for future notices from us, as we may need YOUR HELP to gather signatures!

INSIDE...

Surprises lie hidden among the Cat Tales!
Great gift ideas for Mother’s Day, Graduations, Birthdays, Weddings...

see pages 4 & 5
A phone call came in to the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation. The caller wanted information on our organization and said he wanted to help cougars. "What can I do to promote better understanding of these beautiful animals?" he asked. We are accustomed to this level of interest. We are familiar with this type of passion. However, this was no ordinary person. This man of pervasive spirit and fullness of heart was Michael Blake, author of this year's powerful and grand epic film, *Dances with Wolves*. No one knew at the time that he would earn an Academy Award for his screenplay and that the film would win for Best Picture of the Year.

Enthusiastic about helping cougars, he decided to commission us to coordinate a photo session featuring himself with a cougar. We traveled to Idaho where we met with Jim Dutcher, producer and cinematographer of ABC's award-winning, "Cougars—Ghost of the Rockies." Jim acted as photographer for the shoot.

Thrilled with the photo, Michael is currently using it as his press and publicity photo. His affection for cougars is apparent in the recent release of the hardback edition of *Dances with Wolves*, which features the photo of Michael and Jewel (the beautiful cougar) on the back cover. The Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation is honored to be mentioned on the book. Michael is generously donating his proceeds from the sale of this special edition to support the continuing efforts of our organization. Given Michael's literary talents and personal commitment to conservation efforts, we are inspired and encouraged at the prospect of informing thousands of people about our crucial wildlife preservation programs through the distribution of the book.

Watch for the hardcover edition at your local bookstores and autographed copies made available to you!

**Victory! Out-of-State Trophies Banned**

On February 1, 1991, the California Fish and Game Commission banned the chasing of mountain lions by dogs. The importation into California of any cougar trophies killed in other states has also been banned through an informal opinion from the state Attorney General. This action, supported by the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation, is a great step in the further protection of mountain lions. The new actions, based on interpretation of Proposition 117, prohibits the practice of chasing mountain lions with dogs for fun or photography, and further prohibits sportsmen from going to other states where mountain lion hunting is legal and bringing back to California a trophy head or skin.

In further action, the Commission strengthened their regulations on predator control to provide more protection for mountain lions in keeping with Proposition 117. The Commission tried to ban keeping of live lions, but the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation objected.

The Commission modified the regulation accordingly. Possession of live cougars is still legal for animal rehabilitation organizations and others with the proper permits.

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**YOUR PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION TO PRESERVING OUR WILDLIFE HERITAGE!**

Find out how you can plan your estate to provide you with tax advantages while providing long-term support to preserve our American lion and a lasting wildlife heritage.

Contact: Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation
Planned Giving Department
P.O. Box 1896, Sacramento, CA 95812
(916) 442-2666
MOUNTAIN LIONS WITHOUT THE MYTHS

According to the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the California media, the state is experiencing a population explosion of mountain lions. We are told that the cats are expanding their range to the fringes of urban California; that cougars are decimating deer populations; that mountain lions are a threat to public safety and should be hunted. Such claims are categorically untrue, and an examination of the facts shows why.

Since 1945, California has lost over 5 million acres of wildlife habitat. From 1948 to 1990, California’s human population rose from 9.6 million to 30 million. Along with the explosive population growth has come relentless urban, residential and agricultural expansion, including encroachment into mountain lion habitat with increased road building, water projects, mining, grazing and logging. Recreational use of the public lands has skyrocketed. In California, human expansion is greatest in prime mountain lion habitat where sightings have been common, most notably the western Sierra Nevada and Southern California. The more likely reason we are seeking more mountain lions is because there are a lot more people to see them.

Nor do increased sightings suggest a change of mountain lion behavior due to overpopulation. The young cats generally leave their areas of birth during their second year and can wander over 100 miles in search of their own territory. Studies in Wyoming and Texas have shown that even lions in low-density populations generally leave their areas of birth. This dispersal is a natural process that has been going on for thousands of years.

California’s deer population has drastically declined from 1.8 million in the 1950s to 650,000 in 1987. The DFG’s own documents state that the primary reasons for the state’s deer declines are loss of habitat and food reduction, not mountain lion predation.

People frequently ask whether mountain lions pose a danger to public safety. From 1890 to 1990 only four mountain lion attacks were recorded in California—two nonfatal and two fatal. One took place in 1890 (fatal); the second took place in 1909, resulting in two deaths from rabies; and the last two were in 1986 (both nonfatal). Compared to the common risks people face nearly every day, the chances of being attacked by a mountain lion are so low as to be ridiculous.

The DFG argues that hunting mountain lions is necessary to reduce the population and thus the possibility of attacks on people. But the truth is the risk of attack is very small and hunting does not seem to reduce it. In Colorado, New Mexico, and British Columbia, where lion hunting is permitted and large numbers are killed yearly, the record of attacks on humans is not distinguishable from California’s, where sport killing has been banned.

With the passage of Proposition 117 (the Mountain Lion Initiative), California voters last June banned the sport hunting of mountain lions. But laws still remain in effect, in California and all Western States, that allow the taking of lions that are a demonstrated threat to people or property such as livestock. There is no evidence that reasonable safety requires any more than that.

It is time we trade our fear for respect and understanding, and get on with the business of responsible wildlife research and management.

AFTER THE POACHERS!

The Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation launched a statewide Anti-Poaching Campaign in April by announcing our first $5,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of poachers taking mountain lions or black bears in California.

The reward program will be conducted in cooperation with CalTIP, the state secret witness program for poaching, and the California Department of Fish and Game. The reward will be used to spotlight poaching crimes in California. The Foundation is also seeking funding to conduct a statewide educational program to prevent poaching.

The Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation is also supporting legislation to provide over $20 million annually to the Department of Fish and Game. $10 million will be earmarked for new wardens in the field to catch poachers, while the balance will help protect habitat and the environment.

In a related case, the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation is urging prosecution of the first known violation of Proposition 117. Rancher Carol Silacci of Gilroy reportedly shot a mountain lion eating a wild pig on her property, violating prohibitions against harming cougars. The Foundation is urging the Santa Clara County District Attorney in San Jose to pursue the case and seek a judgment to discourage other ranchers from taking the law into their own hands.
1991 COUGAR QUIZ OF TRUTH OR TALE

Play, learn, and earn a surprise cougar gift

If you answer all four Truth or Tale questions correctly, we'll send you a surprise gift from your friends at the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation. Answers can be found in this Newsletter or in previous publications.

Cougars often roar, much like the African lion.

We can attribute our success to the continued interest and support of our donors and volunteers.

A healthy population of Florida panthers exists.

Compared to common risks, the chances of being attacked by a cougar are ridiculously low.

#320 Adult  #330 Youth
"Keep Them Living & Free"
Celebrate "Cougars" with 100% cotton, four color, tan shirts.
Adult: S, M, L, XL $12.95
Youth: S, M, L $10.95

#300
Sweatshirt
100% light-weight cotton sheeting makes this a delightful year round "California" sweatshirt.
S, M, L, XL $22.95

#100
Puma Pack
Enjoy these exquisite pen and ink drawings by wildlife artist Linnea France. Beware - they are so lovely you won't want to mail them out!
Printed on recycled paper.
Pack of 10 $8.95
#110
First Snowfall Notecards
This full-color card captures a rare sighting of a lion in a brisk autumn snowfall. $7.95

#200
1990 Commemorative Poster
Celebrate that remarkable year, today, tomorrow and always with this inspiring print. Don't miss this LIMITED EDITION! $7.95

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Protect
100% cotton shirt. Available in seafoam green, sky blue, and earth tan. S, M, L, XL $13.95

#310
“Protect”
100% cotton shirt. Available in seafoam green, sky blue, and earth tan. S, M, L, XL $9.95

#340
“1990 and Beyond... A Cougar’s Quest for Protection”
100% black, cotton Tee. Vibrant, full color with silver and gold. $14.95

#420
Mountain Lion Pin
An elegant accent for your scarves, lapels or ties. Rhodium or gold plate. $14.95

#800
Environmental Shoulder Bag
Handy and fashionable. Sturdy, 100% natural cotton canvas. Teal and violet imprint. $14.95

Adopt-A-Lion
The Adopt-A-Lion Program gives special shareholders a means to protect a most powerful symbol of natural beauty and wilderness. By adopting a mountain lion, you will learn more about their characteristics and range. Because of the lion's elusive and secretive nature, we can't track each one individually, but we can provide you with a lion that is currently being studied in the wild or has recently been sighted.

As an adoptive parent the benefits you'll receive include the following:
- A picture of the “new addition” to your family
- Your own personal adoption papers
- A biological fact sheet
- Updates on current research
- Personal satisfaction that comes from knowing you've done your share

Your 1 year adoption fee is $25.00 (Tax Deductible) and makes an entertaining gift for weddings, Mother's Day and graduation!
A SALUTE TO SPECIAL LEADERS

SHARON NEGRI by Bill Yeates

"If the world were merely seductive, that would be easy. If it were merely challenging, that would be no problem. But I arise in the morning torn between a desire to improve (or save) the world and a desire to enjoy (or savor) the world. This makes it hard to plan the day."

In describing this dilemma, E.B. White could have been describing life with my friend and partner in the mountain lion campaign, Sharon Negri. For Sharon loves and embraces life with the same excitement and enthusiasm we enjoyed during the five-year campaign to stop the senseless trophy hunting of mountain lions.

It was a bittersweet moment for me when Sharon informed me that she had decided to leave her position as executive director of the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation. I knew that this decision had not come easily for her, and we both had very little to say. We were losing the heart and soul of the organization, yet I knew that the organization would move forward. I also felt it was appropriate, if not necessary, for Sharon to move on. She had dedicated most of her time, energy, and creativity to the protection of California's mountain lions for the past five years. Because the mountain lion issue is so consuming, it is very difficult to maintain any balance in one's life.

After the veto by Governor Deukmejian of Senate Bill 76, it was apparent that a part-time lobbyist could not maintain the effort necessary to overturn the Governor's short-sighted and politically expedient decision. Even though I decided to create an organization dedicated solely to the protection of mountain lions from trophy hunting, nothing would have happened after the demise of SB 76 had it not been for Sharon.

BILL YEATES by Sharon Negri

The Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation's success over the years has been due, in large part, to the devotion and commitment of its Board of Directors. Bill Yeates is one board member in particular who has given an extraordinary amount of his time and expertise to aid the Foundation's efforts.

Bill took on the protection of mountain lions with an unparalleled passion. Bill's work on behalf of lions began in 1984 when the Mountain Lion Coalition hired him as their lobbyist to extend the 14-year ban on trophy hunting of mountain lions in California.

The magnificence of the lion, and the unconscionable way they were hunted, became Bill's driving issues. He walked the halls of the State Capitol determined to save the mountain lions from the clutches of cattlemen and the National Rifle Association.

"They, like me, may never see a mountain lion in the wild," he once stated about his sons. "I want them to know something wild and understand that it is all right not to own, possess, take or dominate, in order to appreciate the value and importance of this rare animal's existence."

Protecting mountain lions was more than another job for Bill. When financial resources were low, Bill forged ahead. His commitment never wavered. Although Governor Deukmejian vetoed the legislation he had spent countless months trying to pass, Bill felt frustrated but never defeated. Shortly after the veto, it was

With about $500 in the bank and 800 names left over from the Mountain Lion Coalition's mailing list, Sharon built the organization that we now enjoy. Sharon had a special bond with the grass roots activists that are the backbone of the organization. Without these activists, we never could have placed Proposition 117 on the ballot. We were all inspired by both the mountain lion and by our friend and soulmate, Sharon Negri.

The campaign was long and difficult. We all read too much about ourselves and our lives in the media, and Sharon more than the rest because she was our leader—our heart. Throughout the effort, in late night volunteer meetings, Fish and Game Commission hearings, and campaign strategy sessions, Sharon maintained her enthusiasm and confidence.

Sharon Negri is the most genuine and honest individual I have ever known. It was my great fortune and privilege to have shared this experience with her. The Foundation's legacy was created by a young woman who dared to make a difference, and on her own terms.

Out there in the wilds of California are mountain lions that don't know about Sharon Negri. But they are a little freer of mankind's dominance thanks to her grace and caring.

Bill who envisioned a non-profit research and education organization dedicated to stripping away the myths and misinformation about mountain lions, while working to gain the lion's permanent protection. Within weeks, Bill drew up legal papers and formed what was to become one of the most successful environmental groups in the nation—the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation.

As a board member, Bill continues to donate his time and energy and has been one of the driving forces behind this organization. He devoted endless weeks, months and years to drafting and aiding the passage of Proposition 117, The California Wildlife Protection Act.

Bill once said, "The protection of the mountain lion is an extremely personal commitment." Like his grandparents before him, who pioneered the effort to establish the Grand Teton National Park, Bill fulfilled a dream and left an important legacy for his children and future generations.
The Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation's historic role in passing Proposition 117, the California Wildlife Protection Act, on the June 1990 ballot capped an exciting year of achievements.

Having halted the sport hunting of mountain lions for several years through court action, the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation wrote, promoted, collected signatures, and played an active role in the final passage of Proposition 117. The new law bans the hunting of mountain lions in California and allocates $30 million annually for the next 30 years to acquire and protect the habitat of mountain lions and deer, endangered species, wetlands and riparian areas in California.

Other projects completed by the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation include the production of two traveling exhibits on the need to protect cougars in California. The main exhibit was recently featured at the Yosemite National Park Visitors Center and a second exhibit is housed at the Sooky Goldman Nature Center in the Santa Monica Mountains. A booklet on the wildlife of the Santa Monica Mountains complemented our educational efforts to preserve habitat in Los Angeles County.

We would like to thank our generous sponsors for their support in 1989-90:

**San Monica Mountains Conservancy**

**San Francisco Foundation**

**Roberts Foundation**

**Summerlee Foundation**

**United Animal Nations**

**Helen Brach Foundation**

**Patagonia**

**Compton Foundation**

**Homeland Foundation**

We would also like to thank the many individual donors to the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation. Through their heartfelt efforts and commitment, mountain lions are now protected in California and thousands of acres of wildlands will be preserved for future generations.

The Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) conservation and education organization working to save mountain lions and their habitat. Contributions to the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation are tax-deductible.

Copies of the full Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation Audit Review and Form 990 Tax Returns for FY 1989-90 are available upon request.

**Land for Life (continued from page 1)**

from Proposition 117 is providing seed money for the formation of the Central Valley Wetlands Conservancy, a cooperative effort of farmers, environmentalists, and sportsmen to protect important habitat. In addition, funding from Proposition 117 recently purchased over 1,000 acres of additional wetlands for expansion of the Upper Butte Sink Wildlife Area, a critical wintering area for ducks and geese and home to the rare greater sandhill crane.

Whiskey Lakes Wildlife Area, Siskiyou County: If any purchase epitomizes the beauty and wildness that Proposition 117 was meant to preserve, the Whiskey Lakes area, within sight of spectacular Mount Shasta, qualifies! Over 4,000 acres have now been purchased, and more land acquisition is planned for the future for this gorgeous habitat.

Ranging from lovely glades and grasslands which provide foraging habitat for Swainson's hawks, the property also boasts wetland areas as homes for river otter and mink. Deer and mountain lions are also present on the land, and salmon and steelhead abound in the little Shasta River running through the property.

Salmon Falls Ecological Reserve, El Dorado County: Proposition 117 doesn't just save habitat for large, spectacular animals like mountain lions and sandhill cranes. Salmon Falls Ecological Reserve, which straddles the American River, was purchased to preserve in perpetuity an extremely rich and important ensemble of rare plants found nowhere else in the world. The area was threatened with the rampant development of home sites in El Dorado County.

Donner Memorial State Park, Nevada County: A wonderful canyon and stream are being added to the state park, thanks to the land owners, The Nature Conservancy, who negotiated the deal, and Proposition 117.

Santa Rosa Springs Ecological Reserve, Riverside County: The Santa Rosa Plateau of southern California is some of the most threatened remaining wildlife habitat left in this part of the state. Thanks to Proposition 117, a combined effort of the Wildlife Conservation Board, Nature Conservancy, County of Riverside, and the Metropolitan Water District is funding purchase of 3,825 acres. One of the last stands of native bunchgrass in southern California is now protected, along with rare groves of the Engelmann oak.

In only one year, thousands of acres of California wildlands have been protected from development and fragmentation. Proposition 117 is providing us with a living legacy of California's plant and animal communities—a wildlife heritage for all to enjoy.
The Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of a new guide to protect mountain lions and deer. *Preserving Cougar Country: A Guide to Protecting Mountain Lion and Deer Habitat in California* will serve both land-use planners and decision-makers in their efforts to identify and preserve both deer and mountain lion habitat in California. It will be used as a tool by individuals and organizations responsible for protecting, preserving, and acquiring critical wildlands.

This guide addresses:

- **What and where is deer and mountain lion habitat in California and why is it important?**
- **Issues threatening deer and mountain lion habitat in California.**
- **Laws and regulation affecting California’s deer and mountain lion populations and their habitat.**
- **The fate of California’s biodiversity should present trends continue.**

Limited copies are available from the Foundation for $10.

The guide was written by Sue West, produced by the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation, and made possible through the generosity of the Roberts Foundation.

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