Senate Bill 28 Would Revive Trophy Hunting

**Mountain Lion Trophy Hunt Bill Moves Through Senate**

In a surprise move, the Senate has narrowly approved a bill to hunt mountain lions again in California.

Senate Bill 28, by Senator Tim Leslie (R-Placerville), would require the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Fish and Game Commission to “regulate and manage” mountain lions like any other species “that is not rare, endangered or threatened.” In other words, treat mountain lions like deer, elk, rabbits, and all other game species. Furthermore, S.B. 28 would allow trophy hunters to kill depreating mountain lions and “thin” lion populations at the whim of DFG, even in state parks, wildlife refuges, and all federal lands (if federal law would not prohibit such hunting).

S.B. 28, sponsored by the Safari Club and National Rifle Association, is an all-out assault on Proposition 117, the California Wildlife Protection Act, approved by voters in 1990. Using the fatuous claim that DFG cannot now “manage” mountain lions to protect public safety, extremist gun groups are trying to regain a trophy hunting season. In fact, Prop. 117 gives DFG wide latitude in dealing with problem cougars.

S.B. 28 will come before the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee in late June or early July. If approved by the legislature, S.B. 28 will be put on the March 1996 California Primary Election ballot for a public vote. Polls show the public still supports Prop. 117, but the gun groups will falsely claim in gory detail that mountain lions will continue killing people unless S.B. 28 is enacted.

**Senate Natural Resource and Wildlife Committee**

**Voting For S.B. 28:** Senator Leslie, Dick Menteith (R-Modesto), Patrick Johnston (D-Stockton), Mike Thompson (D-North Coast), Don Rogers (D-Bakersfield), and Maurice Johannessen (R-Redding).

**Voting Against S.B. 28:** Senator Tom Hoyden (D-Santo Monico), Henry Mello (D-Monterey), and Hilda Solis (D-Del Monte).

**Not Voting (Counts as a NO Vote):** Senator Lucy Killeo (D-San Diego) and Jack O’Connell (D-Santo Barbara).

**Senate Floor Vote**

**Ayes:** Alquist, Ayolo, Beverly, Boatwright, Calderon, Campbell, Costa, Greene, Haynes, Hunt, Johannessen, Johnson, Johnstone, Kelley, Kopp, Leonard, Leslie, Lewis, Maddy, Manteith, Mountjoy, Phoco, Rogers, Russell, Thompson, Wright

**Noves:** Dills, Hayden, Hughes, Lockyer, Marks, Mello, O’Connell, Petris, Rosenthal, Salis

**Absent, Abstaining, Not voting:** Ceaver, Killeo, Polanco, Watson
Emergency Alert!

S.B. 28 will soon be voted on by the full Assembly and then again by the full Senate. Please write a letter to your own Senator and Assemblymember to vote NO on S.B. 28!

Address: Assemblymember or Senator
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
(If you do not know who your Senator or Assemblymember is, call your local Registrar of Voters or City Hall.)

PLEASE SEND YOUR LETTERS TODAY! TIME IS SHORT!
Thank you to all who have written so far!

Assembly Committee Deadlocks on Lion Bills

The Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee deadlocked on two competing mountain lion bills, resulting in both bills being defeated.

A.B. 117, by Assemblymember David Knowles (R-Placerville), would have repealed all of Proposition 117, the California Wildlife Protection Act. It was defeated on a 7-5 vote (the bill needed 8 votes to pass). Voting for A.B. 117: Assembly member Doris Allen (R-Cypress), Jim Battin (R-Palm Desert), Peter Frusetta (R-San Jose), Keith Olberg (R-Hesperia), Charles Poochigian (R-Fresno), Brian Setencich (R-Hanford, and Bruce Thompson (R-Murrietta). Voting Against A.B. 117: Assemblymember Dominic Cortese (D-San Jose), Robert Campbell (D-Martinez), Sal Cannella (D-Ceres), Dan Hauser (D-North Coast), and Richard Katz (D-Sylmar). Assemblymembers Denise Ducheny (D-Chula Vista) and Kevin Murray (D-Los Angeles) did not vote, which counts as a No vote.

At the same time, a more moderate bill by Assembly member Dominic Cortese, A.B. 87, which would have allowed the Department of Fish and Game to "thin" mountain lion populations and develop education programs to protect public safety, but would not allow trophy hunting, also failed passage. This moderate public safety bill was actively opposed by the extremist gun groups who insist on repealing Proposition 117 altogether!


Both bills cannot be reconsidered until January 1996.

Important: Members of this Committee will vote on S.B. 28. Letters of thanks to those who voted against A.B. 117 are important, as well as letters of disappointment (but be polite!) to those who supported A.B. 117. These Assemblymembers will have another chance to vote up or down on mountain lion trophy hunting!
A Year of Contrasts

The Mountain Lion Foundation grew, and some progress was made on wildlife issues. But the death of a jogger in Auburn State Recreation Area by a mountain lion once again jeopardized gains against trophy hunting, although the Foundation was successful in blocking three bills aimed at weakening Proposition 117, the California Wildlife Protection Act.

Our book, Cougar: The American Lion, entered its second printing and continued to be a steady seller. The Mountain Lion Foundation also lead efforts to protect bobcats, fight poaching, and defend the California Endangered Species Act.

This year, the Mountain Lion Foundation increased total funding, while cutting back on fundraising and administrative expenses.

The Mountain Lion Foundation is a nonprofit conservation and education organization working to protect wildlife and their habitat in California. Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Full financial information, including the fy 1993-94 Audit Review and IRS Form 990, is available from our office upon request.

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BALANCE            | 20,237     | <29,766>   |
LIFE ON THE EDGE
A GUIDE TO CALIFORNIA'S ENDANGERED NATURAL RESOURCES: WILDLIFE
568 pages

LIFE ON THE EDGE is a comprehensive overview of the 115 threatened and endangered wildlife species in California. Its more than 500 full-color pages contain thought-provoking essays and interviews with wildlife experts and are profusely illustrated throughout with photos, maps, and illustrations.

This is a special opportunity for you to purchase this incredible and important book through the Mountain Lion Foundation.

Order by phone: 916/442-2666
(Visa and Mastercard accepted).

Hardcover: $75.00  Paperback: $45.00
Plus tax (7.25%) and shipping ($3.00)

WISH LIST

The staff of the Mountain Lion Foundation is very grateful when much needed items are donated to the Foundation by our generous members. Each and every donation helps us to be more effective while also curtailing our internal expenses. Anyone wishing to donate office equipment, furniture, or supplies, please contact Carsynn at 916/442-2666. (In addition to being greatly appreciated, your donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law).

IBM Selectric typewriter
Computer Modems - Zoom V34 External 28.8 K
Cost to get on-line with Internet (grassroots potential!) and cost to create an MLF homepage
Automatic letter opener
Laser printer - Hewlet Packard 4MV
Software - Pagemaker for PC
Microwave oven
4-drawer file cabinets
Rolling desk chairs
Multi-line phone system
Laptop computer
The Time is Now!!

The Future of Mountain Lions Hangs in the Balance

We are facing the most serious threat to the ban on cougar hunting since the 1990 inception of Proposition 117. In light of SB 28 (Leslie [see pg. 1]), we are gearing up in the office, and asking for your heightened support. We have a legislative fight on our hands with the distinct possibility of a ballot measure in March, 1996.

To put our focus into blocking this measure, we are conserving and consolidating our resources as never before. We are working extensively with several major newspapers, and both TV and radio stations. You can help!!

When we originally passed Proposition 117, it was with the help of an outstanding statewide grassroots coalition. We need to renew that coalition now. IT IS ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL TO OUR SUCCESS THAT EVERYONE WRITE AND CALL THEIR STATE SENATORS AND ASSEMBLY-MEMBERS, AS WELL AS NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO AND TV STATIONS.

We need to get the truth out that SB 28 is a trophy-hunting bill, disguised as a public health and safety measure. Even the Department of Fish and Game has stated that trophy-hunting of cougars will not improve public health and safety.

We are calling on you to help defend the mountain lion. Together, we can block this proposed measure. We stopped trophy-hunting permanently!! It’s up to us to protect what we worked so hard accomplish — the preservation of California’s cougar.

You can help by donating money to the Mountain Lion Foundation today. We didn’t budget for such a massive call to action. Our ability to succeed is enhanced by every donation we receive, so anything you can give now would be a tremendous help. It’s yet another way you can become involved in supporting Proposition 117, and mountain lions.

We appreciate all you’ve done and ask that you deepen your commitment to protecting California’s wildlife heritage by writing your legislators, contributing to the Mountain Lion Foundation, and telling your friends how they can help, too.

The time is now!! Together we can succeed in protecting the mountain lion.

Call us for more information at (916) 442-2666. We’re delighted to have your support.

Yes, I want to help the Mountain Lion Foundation stop the trophy-hunting season.

__ $35 __ $50 __ $75 __ $100 __ $250 __ other

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City/State/Zip ____________________________
Phone # ____________________________ E-mail # ____________________________
☐ Yes, I want to join the Mountain Lion Foundation phone team. Call me!
☐ Yes, I have access to the Internet and will join the MLF phone team via E-mail.
☐ Yes, I want to volunteer to stop the hunt.

POACHING RESTRICTIONS

Another try

The Mountain Lion Foundation and Senator Mike Thompson (D-Napa) have teamed up again to pass anti-poaching legislation. Last year, legislation to increase penalties on commercial poachers failed in the last days of the state legislative session. This year we have reintroduced the same legislation, now Senate Bill 123, to fight poaching.

S.B. 123 is expected to pass the state Senate shortly. This bill increases fines on commercial poachers (poachers who buy or sell wildlife parts and products) to $30,000 per count. We had hoped to increase the penalty to a felony, but politics over the “three-strikes-and-you’re-out” law precluded that approach. The bill does removes a convicted commercial poacher’s hunting or fishing privileges, and it also requires a report from the Department of Fish and Game about steps needed to join the national Wildlife Violators Compact - a national cooperative agreement among states to enforce poaching laws.
Celebrate Life!!

"The best use of life is to invest in something which will outlast life."
— WILLIAM JAMES

For the future of the mountain lion and our natural heritage, we now offer extensive services in long-range estate and financial planning including charitable trusts and bequests.

Invest in the future by making a long-term gift to the mountain lions and California’s wildlife, and capturing significant tax advantages for your estate.

Lifetime gifts provide you an avenue to ensure that the celebration of your life endures as a lasting legacy of support both now and for the future.

For more information call Shannon Eddy at (916) 442-2666.