“Sport hunting can resume.”

PROPOSITION 197 ON MARCH 26th BALLOT

NO on 197

“an elaborate subterfuge to get the voters to overturn their previous ban on sport hunting mountain lions . . .”

California Park Rangers Association

When Californians go to the polls to vote on March 26th, they will decide the fate of California’s mountain lions. The upcoming election on Tuesday culminates a campaign of fear and disinformation – the scam to pass Proposition 197 and reinstate trophy hunting of mountain lions in California. If the voters approve 197, the gun lobby wins and public safety, sound wildlife management, and mountain lions lose. Should it become law, Prop.197 will amend the California Wildlife Protection Act (Prop.117) and, according to the Senate Office of Research, it will “allow the re-establishment of sport hunting of cougars”, a high-tech yet brutally primitive ‘recreation’. On election day, Senator Tim Leslie, author of Prop.197, and the gun lobby (the NRA, Safari Club International, Gun Owners of California, etc.) intend to score a direct and deadly hit with their measure. The Safari Club has already boasted to its members that passage of Proposition 197 means “sport hunting can resume”.

Continued on page 2
"The initiative would allow the re-establishment of sport hunting of cougars..."  

Sen. Tim Leslie and his supporters have cynically exploited two very rare and very private tragedies in order to run current law to ground and deliver a final, deadly blow to Prop. 117. Under the false pretext of public safety, Proposition 197 will simply reclassify California’s cougars as game mammals for the pleasure and profit of houndsmen and trophy hunters.

The San Francisco Chronicle has condemned Leslie and the pro-197 campaign, declaring that "using hype and phony scare tactics, California trophy hunters are asking voters to allow them to resume their despicable practice of killing mountain lions for sport."

In addition to inciting fear, Leslie and the gun lobby have circulated many falsehoods intended to mislead the public into voting yes on Proposition 197. Chief among these are lies that 197 will protect the public while current law does not; that present regulations tie the hands of officials at the Department of Fish & Game and prevent them from managing cougars; that current law bans both DFG and the public from killing cougars, and has caused an explosion in the cougar population. None of this is true. Leslie’s campaign to pass 197 is a carefully crafted lie. His real agenda is as narrow as the barrel of a gun: reinstating the trophy hunting of cougars.

VOTE NO ON 197 ON MARCH 26
Mountain Lions! at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center

The first stage of a new exhibit on mountain lions opened February 15 at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael, east of Sacramento. Part of a much larger exhibit due to open in September, this introductory portion was opened early (with the assistance of the Mountain Lion Foundation) to provide the public with historical background, balanced and timely scientific information, and the truth about many mountain lion myths. Nearly 25,000 people visit the center annually. For more information, phone 916/489-4918.

Dear Friend,

The threat to wildlife has never been greater . . . . poaching, trophy hunting, loss of habitat. Your commitment to action and your financial support are needed now more than ever. Together, we can protect our wild heritage. Please act now by pledging your support of California’s mountain lions and the important work of the Mountain Lion Foundation!

___ YES, I’ll support the effort to protect California’s mountain lions! Here is my tax-deductible contribution of $35  $50  $100  $250  ______ other.

___ YES, I’ll vote on Tuesday, March 26, and I will not vote alone. This election is so important that I will encourage my friends & neighbors to go with me to the polls to vote.

___ YES, I’d like to adopt a lion. Here is my tax-deductible contribution of $25.

___ YES, I’d also like to adopt a lion as a gift for a friend / family member / coworker. I have enclosed $25.

Please send gift package to:

NAME  
ADDRESS

___ YES, I’d like to volunteer.

NAME  PHONE
ADDRESS

For your convenience, we accept  ✔ Mastercard  ✔ Visa Card #  Exp. date  

Signature  

To pledge, volunteer, or adopt by phone, please call the Mountain Lion Foundation at 916/442-2666
Thanks, volunteers

nancy baker casey fox rose judd tiffany penny ellison mike smith colleen obrien sue cipolla
marilyn coleman gail rains jennifer west carol gage erin duffy vicki nakabayashi sharon cavallo bill
newsom don dianda kathy fletcher mary benning janice clark jacque jones and daughters tim &
lynn dunbar janet barnet denise humenik jennifer rose gail & erin seymour max costa colleen
adamsen laura hollis stephanie & debbie jones sarah west lisa wuiri bill & carol yeates sandy
germond amie gerand randy compasso mary mesmer matt kuzins jerry meral peter moyes sharon
negri kim gardner lynn sadler erik sakach tippi hedren gretchen wyler joe & pepper edmiston julie
hendriks susan shipley holly rosenlof shari love virginia handley eric mills michelle mattingly coral
cotton karol raymer teri shore hope ewton randy laursen justine bradford geoff smith cris waller
rob eccles duncan mcetridge jane garrison doris lin bee simpson kris lampe maurice kerr marlene
trunnel evi sellers jane block glen bailey joyce piper carol rosenburg kate stafford carol
mcdonald marla morrisey marilyn ferrar sherri bell lisa george ivanov josh curtis valerie schneider
ninette bunch lisa pasquini karen burden karen haggard madeline bernstein karen green nadine
goodreau kelly cowan kevin hansen patricia clode lisa edmondsen craig newman jay huguely robert
wurst chris link jan lockwood diane parets katherine davis celina torrez bonnie trul mary kruse
sorayyah khoja jerie franchini bill dow amy lethbridge steve saxby jim dutcher steve karlin randy
lackey kathy larsen jim shepard brenda de la rosa richard allsop john mazor nicole walker gina
shatos john stonich yvonne yales dianne delisio maggie adams terry bernarto kim sturla fred
keeley lisa weisberg joyce karst bonnie yaffe stephanie cartwright john woodbury larry fahn juli
bott jeffrey schloss ron schaffer brad hund pam helmike michael bell & many, many more!
Arm Yourself With the Facts

"recreational hunting would not be expected to sufficiently reduce lion densities to result in lowering the potential for human attacks."

California Department of Fish & Game

Arm yourself with the facts: Senator Tim Leslie was the Safari Club’s 1994 Legislator of the Year. Proposition 197 is a license to hunt and kill lions for fun and profit. It will not improve public safety. It will not improve the DFG's ability to manage mountain lions. Nor will it lift a ban on the killing of cougars to protect the public, because no such ban exists. The truth is that Proposition 197 is a fraud and, should it succeed at the polls on March 26, honesty, public safety, and California’s mountain lions will have fallen prey to fear, deception, and political gun play in Sacramento.

Contrary to Leslie’s claims, 197 will not “untie the hands of DFG” because current law already gives them broad authority and discretion to manage cougars. If cougars are not being managed effectively, it is because officials at DFG sat on their hands, rather than prepare sound management plans to protect the public and its wildlife. DFG has the statutory authority, the management tools, and the moral obligation to do just that. Proposition 197 is a fraud.

Support of & Opposition to Prop 197
Examine both sides of the issue before you vote

Yes on 197 National Rifle Association • California Rifle and Pistol Association • Safari Club International • California Farm Bureau for Conservation • Gun Owners of California, Inc • California Trappers Association • California Bowmen Hunters Intermountain Houndsmen & Hunters Association • California Cattlemen’s Association • Modoc County Cattlemen’s Association • California Wool Growers Association • Lassen Sportsmen’s Club • North Central California Houndsmen Association • Outdoor Sportsmen’s Coalition of California • Redwood Houndsmen • Shasta Cascade Houndsmen • Sacramento Safari Club •

No on 197 California State Park Rangers’ Association • Humane Society of the U.S • Mountain Lion Foundation • Sierra Club • Planning & Conservation League • The Ark Trust, Inc • Fund for Animals • Endangered Habitats League • Environmental Protection Information Center • California Federation for Animal Legislation • Contra Costa Humane Society California Grange • Bay Area Open Space Council • Kern Audubon Society • The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society California Forestry Association • Northcoast Environmental Center • Los Angeles SPCA • Marin Horse Council • California League of Conservation Voters • Action for Animals • Whittier Audubon Society • County of Marin Association of South Coast Audubon • Rural Advocate • Advocates for Animals • Veterinarians for Animal Rights • California Native Plant Society • Hills for Everyone • National Opossum Society • Santa Susanna Mountain Park Association • El Dorado Audubon • Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council • North Coast Environmental Center • City of Berkeley • Animal Legal Defense Fund • Marin Humane Society • San Diego Humane Society • San Diego Animal Advocates • Mid Peninsula Open Space District • Friends of California Parks • Shambala Preserve/ Roar Foundation •

Don’t Vote Alone!

MARCH 26th

The supporters of 197 are counting on a low voter turnout to work in their favor on March 26. So, share this newsletter, inform others about the issue & the election, & DON'T VOTE ALONE! Take your friends & neighbors with you to the polls on election day. Say NO to fraud. Say NO to recreational abuse & shooting of California’s mountain lions. Say NO to the gun lobby.

Vote No on 197

VOTE NO ON 197 ON MARCH 26
Crimes Against the Wild

Anti-Poaching Update

Considering the exigency of the current campaign to defeat Proposition 197 and prevent trophy hunting of California’s mountain lions, the Mountain Lion Foundation’s Anti-Poaching Campaign continued to make progress on several fronts.

We were instrumental in the recent passage of one of the most important anti-poaching laws passed by the state legislature in some time – Senate Bill 123. Sponsored by the Mountain Lion Foundation, it accomplishes three things: 1) Substantially increases commercial poaching fines (up to $30,000 per count). 2) Authorizes judges to revoke hunting and/or fishing privileges of convicted commercial poachers (of greater consequence to many than monetary fines). 3) Requires DFG to prepare a report on the impacts of state membership in the National Violators Compact (an interstate network to deny hunting and fishing licenses to poachers who have lost the privilege in other states).

We are currently promoting and distributing our anti-poaching public service announcements to television markets statewide. Lili Schad of Clearwater Films, who created the PSA’s for us, is also preparing to enter the two PSA’s in competition. Many thanks to Lili, Steve Karlin, the Nathan Cummings Foundations, and the many generous people who have donated time, talent, and materials to this project.

The Campaign is going on-line with the Mountain Lion Foundation – on the internet. This is a significant, cost-effective opportunity to educate, motivate, and network with a broad spectrum of the public with respect to poaching and trafficking of California’s wild animals. Our internet location will be: http://www.ns.net/mtnlion.

Wish List

Thanks to everyone who has helped us meet our material needs. Foundation staff is very grateful when much needed items are donated by our generous members. Every item helps us curtail our internal expenses. In addition to being greatly appreciated, donations to MLF are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Anyone with items to donate, please call Carsynn at 916/442-2666:

- Computer printers: Hewlett Packard 4MV laser printer, and an inkjet printer
- Computer modem: Zoom V34 External 28.8 K
- Cost to maintain an MLF Internet homepage
- Cell phone
- Smith & Corona portable typewriter (newer model)
- Microwave oven
- Automatic letter opener

Cougars Cruise the Net

http://www.ns.net/mtnlion

The Mountain Lion Foundation finally has its own Web site, thanks to many “virtual” volunteers who so generously donated their time and talent to this important project, working with Foundation staff to design and produce an MLF homepage. You can cruise the net with cougars at http://www.ns.mtnlion.

Good-bye and best wishes to Jennifer Williams. Jennifer has left her post as Administrative Assistant at MLF to attend Graduate School.

Mark Palmer, former MLF Director, has moved on to the Earth Island Institute.

Samantha Smith is the Foundation’s new Administrative Assistant. She came on board at a very hectic time, but she rolled her sleeves up and pitched right in. Welcome, Sam!
Arm Yourself With the Facts

"recreational hunting would not be expected to sufficiently reduce lion densities to result in lowering the potential for human attacks."

California Department of Fish & Game

Arm yourself with the facts: Senator Tim Leslie was the Safari Club's 1994 Legislator of the Year. Proposition 197 is a license to hunt and kill lions for fun and profit. It will not improve public safety. It will not improve the DFG's ability to manage mountain lions. Nor will it lift a ban on the killing of cougars to protect the public, because no such ban exists. The truth is that Proposition 197 is a fraud and, should it succeed at the polls on March 26, honesty, public safety, and California's mountain lions will have fallen prey to fear, deception, and political gun play in Sacramento.

Contrary to Leslie's claims, 197 will not “untie the hands of DFG” because current law already gives them broad authority and discretion to manage cougars. If cougars are not being managed effectively, it is because officials at DFG sat on their hands, rather than prepare sound management plans to protect the public and its wildlife. DFG has the statutory authority, the management tools, and the moral obligation to do just that. Proposition 197 is a fraud.

Support of & Opposition to Prop 197 Examine both sides of the issue before you vote

Yes on 197 National Rifle Association • California Rifle and Pistol Association • Safari Club International • California Farm Bureau • California Howsden for Conservation • Gun Owners of California, Inc • California Trappers Association • California Bowmen Hunters Intermountain Houndsmen & Hunters Association • California Cattlemen's Association • Modoc County Cattlemen's Association • California Wool Growers Association • Lassen Sportsmen's Club • North Central California Houndsmen Association • Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition of California • Redwood Houndsmen • Shasta Cascade Houndsmen • Sacramento Safari Club •

No on 197 California State Park Rangers' Association • Humane Society of the U.S. • Mountain Lion Foundation • Sierra Club • Planning & Conservation League • The Ark Trust, Inc • Fund for Animals • Endangered Habitats League • Environmental Protection Information Center • California Federation for Animal Legislation • Contra Costa Humane Society California Grange • Bay Area Open Space Council • Kern Audubon Society • The Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society California Forestry Association • Northcoast Environmental Center • Los Angeles SPCA • Marin Horse Council • California League of Conservation Voters • Action for Animals • Whittier Audubon Society • County of Marin Association of South Coast Audubon • Rural Advocate • Advocates for Animals • Veterinarians for Animal Rights • California Native Plant Society • Hills for Everyone • National Opossum Society • Santa Susanna Mountain Park Association • El Dorado Audubon • Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council • North Coast Environmental Center • City of Berkeley • Animal Legal Defense Fund • Marin Humane Society • San Diego Humane Society • San Diego Animal Advocates • Mid Peninsula Open Space District • Friends of California Parks • Shambala Preserve/Roar Foundation •

Don’t Vote Alone!

MARCH 26th

The supporters of 197 are counting on a low voter turnout to work in their favor on March 26. So, share this newsletter, inform others about the issue & the election, & DON'T VOTE ALONE! Take your friends & neighbors with you to the polls on election day. Say NO to fraud. Say NO to recreational abuse & shooting of California's mountain lions. Say NO to the gun lobby.

Vote No on 197

VOTE NO ON 197 ON MARCH 26