In Oregon, the Thurston County Sheriff has directed residents to kill cougars on sight, regardless of whether they appear threatening — a direct violation of state law.

In Point Magu State Park, a lion was tracked for the purpose of killing it, because it wandered too close to humans in that park. The purpose of California State Parks is to protect the environment in its natural state and to interpret it for the public. Ironically, the website for that park features a pair of binoculars and large type declaring “Watchable Wildlife Site.”

In New Mexico, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is being sued for killing cougars in violation of the National Environmental Quality Act.

In Utah, the NRA’s Constitutional Amendment (which we defeated in California) is on the ballot to remove power from the citizens to protect wildlife. All authority would be given to the Utah equivalent of our politically appointed Fish and Game Commission. The NRA cites Prop 117 as the “need” for this kind of assault.

Here in California, the Department of Fish and Game is claiming that bighorn sheep will be driven to extinction unless they can shoot mountain lions. They already have the ability to remove the one or two “problem” lions by non-lethal means, but apparently choose not to act unless they can kill the cougars.

The mythology that surrounds cougars continues to grow and feed the fears of a small but powerful minority. Mountain Lion Foundation members are doing an excellent job of fighting these attacks, but we must do much more.

**MYTH # 1** The Mountain Lion population is exploding since the
passage of Prop 117 in 1990.

a) “Mountain lions will never overrun a countryside,” says Dr. Maurice Hornocker, the leading lion expert in the entire world. “These animals are very territorial and will limit their own numbers.”

b) Even DFG’s own official documents state there is no evidence the cougar population is growing, “Indeed it appears stable.”

c) Mountain lions have not been hunted since then-Governor Ronald Reagan signed the moratorium in 1972. Prop 117 made that protection permanent when the Fish and Game Commission was planning to start hunts again. Nothing about Prop 117 could have affected cougar populations.

MYTH # 2 There are “excess” cougars that need to be “selectively” removed for wildlife management reasons.

a) See myth # 1.

b) Hunting in California is strictly recreational. As Dr. Rick Hopkins, one of the leading cougar experts in California, points out hunting in California is not done in a way that manages populations. Regarding cougars specifically, at a recent all-day cougar seminar at Point Reyes, Dr. Hopkins informally estimated that hunters would have to kill more than a quarter of all cougars (including females) to affect the population at all. He said hunters might have to kill more than half to cause any noticable change in predation. Not even DFG has ever called for a kill even close to that high.

MYTH # 3 Lions near humans and wildlife must be killed.

a) Parks and wildlife officials have found scrapes, scat, tracks, “dens” and kills near well-travelled foot trails. Lions have been observing humans for years with little interaction.

b) Shooting lions for livestock depredation may well make the problem worse. There have been cases where depredation was lessened by stopping all trophy hunting until the lion population could stabilize. When one lion is shot, another will move into its territory. Younger, less experienced lions are often those that attack livestock or wander into urban areas.

c) It should be noted that relocating lions is not necessarily a compromise between wildlife protectors and those who would kill cougars. When a new lion moves into another’s territory, the usual result is the death of one lion. Or the new lion will often try to return to their old home and end up in the wrong place. Regardless, relocation does give the lion a chance to survive and at least helps the gene pool remain stronger.

d) The public has stated twice, that they want cougars protected. If cougars cannot be safe in wilderness areas and wildlife parks, where can they live? There must be somewhere that the cougars call home and humans are the intruders. In many national parks, the public has learned to live with the far more dangerous grizzly, understanding that grizzlies need a home too. Californians must come to grips with these choices.

MYTH # 4 Wildlife management should be left to wildlife professionals at DFG.

a) The folks running DFG are political appointees who must follow the governor’s policies or else lose their jobs. Given the money behind the NRA and hunting enthusiasts, it is no wonder that DFG policies cater to that tiny minority. As Upton Sinclair stated, “It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding it.”

b) In every case where the Mountain Lion Foundation has challenged DFG’s “science,” we have won. MLF lawsuits have refuted DFG’s science and we have never lost a lawsuit.

c) As stated before, hunting in California is recreation, not management. DFG gets a con-
Considerable amount of money from hunting permits to manage wildlife populations for this recreational activity. Sometimes this benefits wildlife in general and sometimes it does not.

d) The only thing that will ultimately save wildlife is large enough tracts of land where the animals can sustain their populations naturally. "Managing" populations will only be a short term stop gap.

e) Our understanding of the delicate balances of nature grows constantly. Our ethics regarding the treatment of wildlife is evolving as well. Wildlife belong to all citizens as part of the public trust. It is the responsibility of everyone to let their employees (DFG) know how they feel about wildlife.

MYTH # 5 Proposition 117 to protect cougars removes the ability of DFG to manage wildlife.

a) See myth # 4 regarding management.

b) Prop 117 states that any lion may be killed if it presents a "perceived imminent threat to public health and safety." Hardly consistent with previous DFG claims that Prop 117 tied their hands from removing a lion from a school yard!

c) In drastic cases, such as the situation with the endangered bighorn sheep, DFG can use non-lethal methods to manipulate the environment. Not at all consistent with current DFG claims that Prop 117 will not let them remove "one or two lions that have developed a taste for the endangered bighorn." While there are convincing arguments that lion removal will not work, nonetheless DFG has known for more than four years they can relocate the lions, as well as study them to see what would work better. Regardless, DFG has yet to act on this matter, choosing instead to spread rumors about the Foundation's unwillingness to "let them" kill the lions.

While it is important to refute the phony "statistics" that keep cropping up in news articles, the most important point is that every human/mountain lion encounter is evidence that we have destroyed habitat that was once home to cougars and other wildlife. It is time to put the hunting issues to bed. The public has spoken twice. Now it is time to address the long-term survival of all creatures on this planet. MLF

This little lion will spend the rest of its life imprisoned because of a crime a human committed.

Last month animal control officers received a call from an Oxnard bakery employee saying that some folks had anonymously dropped off a cougar cub they had "found in the mountains."

Unfortunately, the folks left before the Department of Fish and Game warden could determine which mountains the cougar had come from. He could not find out how long the cougar had been missing from its mother or if it were the only cub in the litter. We will never know if its mother had been sick or injured or if the cub was simply abducted.

continued on page 4
What we do know is that a crime was committed. It is illegal to possess or transport cougars without rigorous permitting procedures. Generally speaking, this is true of possession of all wild animals. Wildlife that appears helpless or injured should be reported to the Department of Fish and Game or local animal agency. For public safety reasons, we must especially point out that picking up baby cougars is a very bad idea. Mother cougars are quite protective and well able to make the human a candidate for the Darwin awards!

Unfortunately, wildlife crimes are rampant in California. Some result from people who mean well, but don't understand that should be reported to the Department of Fish and Game in order to help police. Generally speaking, this is true of possession of all wild animals. The most egregious crimes are perpetrated by black market profiteers who, for example, have nearly stripped our California deserts clean of reptiles that supply their exotic pet trade.

Regardless of the origin of the crime, the Mountain Lion Foundation is committed to curbing this wildlife loss.

We are currently updating our "Crimes Against the Wild" report, the only one of its kind to document the nature and extent of poaching in California. In production is also our "Manual for Prosecutors and Judges" to assist in the prosecution of wildlife crimes. Our award-winning television Public Service Announcements continue to promote DFG's CalTIP (Turn in a Poacher) program in six languages. Our Anti-Poaching Awards recognize heroes in the field.

Now, our education program is getting a boost from our new "Wild Child" web page. Additionally, our surveys have shown that many adults — especially those who do not speak English — receive most information regarding current events from their children. Our soon-to-be-developed K-12 curriculum will include information on poaching and wildlife crimes.

Obviously, there is still much to do as this little "poster child" so heartbreaking illustrates. We will supply anti-poaching materials to whatever educational facility she must go to so that everyone who sees her will understand that she should have up to 150 square miles to live in and that now she will be lucky to get 150 square feet. We are determined this little girl will not have her natural life sacrificed for nothing.

George's wife, Rose, wrote to us that "George always thought of the GGS as the 'barometer species.' If we kill the earth's foundation species, then the entire and intricate fabric of the earth unravels and the house falls down."

The Mountain Lion Foundation has pledged to carry on his work and dedicates our efforts to the Natomas Basin lawsuit to his honor. Our sympathies to his family.

The Foundation welcomes the National Wildlife Federation and the Environmental Law Foundation to our efforts to improve and enforce the Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan. Attorneys John Kostyak and Tara Mueller bring years of Endangered Species Act experience to this case. We look forward to working with them.

California Legal Advocates for Wildlife (CLAW) is investigating ways to force a recovery plan for the Bighorn Sheep that protects all the wildlife in the ecosystem — including mountain lions. We are also examining other HCPs for adherence to the law. In the meantime, CLAW is refining the anti-poaching manual for prosecutors and judges to help stop wildlife crime. Additionally, Attorney Bill Yeates is assisting groups with comments on the new draft regulations for the California Environmental Quality Act and the California Endangered Species Acts.
MAKE GIVING TO THE FOUNDATION EASY

Many people are now banking on-line, instructing their computer to automatically send checks for rent and other regular expenses. Why not add the Mountain Lion Foundation as a monthly recipient? A small amount per month can go a long way toward our efforts to protect wildlife.

Better than a Beanie Baby

Hugging her brand new stuffed cougar, Rachel Prettyman beams her delight at winning the Mountain Lion Foundation’s cougar drawing contest held at the Great American River Clean-up in Sacramento. The six-year-old, who plans to become a veterinarian, received the stuffed animal as grand prize for her drawing featured above.

Rachel and a few dozen other artists were on hand at the Mountain Lion Foundation booth at the 20th Annual American River Parkway Foundation event. Other winners, ranging in age from 2 to 17, received T-shirts, books and certificates for their artwork.

Special thanks to our wonderful volunteer, Outreach Coordinator Lyn Whitcomb, for arranging the contest and staffing our information booth at the September 26 event.

MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION

WISH LIST

Normally at this time of year, we list the small things we need around the office or to support our grassroots activists. This time, we’d like to invite our members to make a special earmarked contribution to our larger, more long-term projects. Here are a few of those:

LAW SUITS — Legal efforts to ensure that habitat conservation plans meet the provisions of new laws designed to protect endangered species.

MORE LAWSUITS — We need support for our “Pro Bono Legal Network,” which connects attorneys with small grassroots wildlife groups.

STILL MORE LAWSUITS — We need funds to work on the legal aspects of resolving the conflict between mountain lions and threatened bighorn sheep in the Eastern Sierra.

ANTI-POACHING — We need money to supplement foundations funds to pay for printing a soon-to-be-completed prosecutor’s guide to anti-poaching laws.

MORE ANTI-POACHING — Likewise, we need funds to pay for printing our soon-to-be completed anti poaching public policy report.

WILDLIFE EDUCATION — We desperately need funds to do the research and pay to reprint our “Cougar: The American Lion” book.

For a more complete list or to get detailed information on these, write Tom Martens, Mountain Lion Foundation, Box 1896, Sacramento, CA. 95812. Or call him at 916-442-2666, ext. 106.

THANK YOU FOR VOTING

NOVEMBER 3
MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION

wild holiday gifts

MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION T-SHIRT
Our newest T-shirt was designed by artist Gaylord Bennett. It features a beautiful 4-color imprint of a mountain lion, bear and bobcat. Available in either white or natural, the shirt is made of 100% preshrunk cotton and is available in sizes M/L/XL/XXL. $15.95

MOUSEPAD
Keep the Mountain Lion Foundation at your fingertips with the MLF mousepad. What a lovely gift for the computer buff on your Christmas list! The artwork on the mousepad repeats Gaylord Bennett's four-color imprint as on the T-shirts. $7.95

HOLIDAY ORNAMENT
Add this exquisite golden snowflake ornament to your holiday decorating or wrap it up for a special person. They make wonderful stocking stuffers too! Ornaments are packaged in individual polybags. $3.95

SPECIAL HOLIDAY ORNAMENT OFFER
For every sales order received on or before December 15th, 1998, get a holiday ornament for only $2.00. Limit one per order. While supplies last.

"ADOPT-A-LION"
"Adopt-a-lion" is the perfect gift for cougar lovers. Your symbolic adoption helps ensure the protection of this magnificent cat. All proceeds will benefit our educational outreach programs. Your special "adopt" packet will include the following: 'Welcome' scroll, personalized certificate suitable for framing, color photo, mountain lion fact sheets. The adoption is $25.00. All adoptions are tax-deductible.

MOUNTAIN LION ACTIVITIES BOOK BY SANDRA CHISHOLM ROBINSON
Published by the Denver Museum of Natural History, this story and activity book is great for grade levels 3 through 8. Ideal for educators, group leaders and parents. $7.95

"COUGAR: THE AMERICAN LION" BY KEVIN HANSEN
Written by Kevin Hansen in association with the Mountain Lion Foundation, Cougar: The American Lion is the most definitive book to date on the mountain lion in North America. In its sixth and final edition, this beautiful and informative book is accented with stunning color photos and a foreword by Robert Redford. $19.95
1999 MOUNTAIN LION CALENDAR

Track the coming year and the wild cougar with a 1999 calendar! With beautiful images captured by wildlife photographer Denver Bryan, this calendar will enhance the days and months of all who receive it. $10.95

POSTCARD BOOK

Send your message across the miles with this lovely book of postcards. The book contains 21 different 5x7” photos of mountain lions by wildlife photographer Denver Bryan. Each postcard also includes an interesting and unique fact about the cougar. $8.95

“WALK ON THE WILD SIDE” FANNY PACK

This eye-catching, multi-pocketed pack is designed with both the outdoor enthusiast and traveler in mind. Made from heavyweight premium cotton canvas, its six pockets can carry everything you need for an active day. The center pouch is perfect for your water bottle or camera lens. In black with white and teal imprint. $17.95

“LITTLE CATS” A BOBBIE KALMAN BOOK

From domestic housecats to the rare manul, young readers will enjoy learning about all the different cats in the small cat family. Children will treasure the vibrant color photos of cub and adult cats alike. $5.95

BRONZE KEY CHAIN

Designed exclusively for the Mountain Lion Foundation, this stunning bronze key chain with a bas relief image of a mountain lion not only carries your keys but also serves as a constant reminder of why we need to protect this elusive creature. $5.95

POSTCARD BOOK

Send your message across the miles with this lovely book of postcards. The book contains 21 different 5x7” photos of mountain lions by wildlife photographer Denver Bryan. Each postcard also includes an interesting and unique fact about the cougar. $8.95

BECOME A MEMBER

Join the fight to protect California’s wildlife. As a member of the Mountain Lion Foundation, you will receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter, MLF Review. You will also receive legislative and special alerts announcing actions you can take to protect wildlife. Most of all, you will receive the satisfaction of knowing that your support helps to protect wildlife throughout California. Memberships make great gifts, too! Annual Membership $35.00
California's state lawmakers ended their 1998 session and Gov. Pete Wilson ended his term on a positive note for the agency responsible for mountain lions and other wildlife. Unfortunately, habitat funding and the public's right to know lost out yet again.

Most of the environmental gains were made not through the public legislative forum, but in the arcane state-budget-writing process.

For instance:
- Legislators increased the budget of the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) by nearly $7 million, beefing up its ability to protect watersheds.
- Just over $1 million was add to the budget to re-energize the DFG special undercover warden unit that has been effective in curbing poaching.
- Fines were increased for poaching and illegally transplanting fish, which is the result of the DFG fiasco over poisoning Lake Davis to get rid of northern pike.
- As required by Prop. 117, lawmakers allocated $30 million to protect habitat for mountain lions and other wildlife.
- Lawmakers averted massive layoff at the DFG by supplementing the agency’s budget by $7 million to make up for revenue lost by plummeting fishing license sales.
- Lawmakers approved spending $245 million to pay for the state’s share of purchasing the redwood groves in the Headwaters Forest on the North Coast.

Because the state economy is roaring, lawmakers found themselves in an unusual position of having extra taxpayer money to spend. At one point, legislators were even considering spending $100 million of the budget surplus funds for purchasing wildlife habitat and recreational and park lands.

In the last day of the legislature, however, that funding amount dwindled to almost nothing for wildlife.

There were other lost opportunities this legislative session:
- A bill that would have given a state tax credit for retiring wildlife habitat land (SB-2080) died in committee.
- A bill that would have asked voters to approve bonds for water protection and park land acquisition died with the end of the session.
- Gov. Wilson vetoed a Mountain Lion Foundation-sponsored bill (AB-1169) that would have required that agencies like the Fish and Game Commission place their meeting minutes, agendas and decision-making material on the Internet for public review.

1998 Session Legislative Wrap-up

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME BUDGET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>What It Does</th>
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<tr>
<td>AB-2794</td>
<td>Assembly Member Denise Moreno, D-National City</td>
<td>State Budget bill increases the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) 1998-99 budget by nearly $7 million and adds funding for new programs for endangered steelhead trout recovery, watershed restoration and to beef up the undercover warden force.</td>
<td>Signed into law Sept. 30, 1998.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gov. Pete Wilson</td>
<td>The governor vetoed portions of the budget that would have allowed DFG to hire personnel to review the impact of timber plans on fish and wildlife and for the salmon and steelhead restoration work.</td>
<td>Portions vetoed Sept. 30, 1998.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AB 1671</td>
<td>Assembly Member Fred Keeley, D-Santa Cruz</td>
<td>Gives the DFG $7 million to replace lost income from a big dropoff in fishing license sales.</td>
<td>Signed into law on Sept. 30, 1998.</td>
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ANTI-POACHING

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<th>Bill</th>
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<tr>
<td>AB 2794</td>
<td>Assembly Member Denise Moreno Ducheny, D-National City</td>
<td>State Budget bill increases DFG budget by $1.2 million in order to hire 9 new undercover wardens to enforce anti-poaching laws.</td>
<td>Signed into law Sept. 30, 1998.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 1143</td>
<td>Sen. Byron Sher, D-Palo Alto</td>
<td>Increases the maximum fine for unlawfully selling purchasing, or possessing for sale, the meat, skin, hide, teeth, claws or other parts of any bear.</td>
<td>Signed into law May 29, 1998.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AB 739</td>
<td>Assembly member Mike Michado, D-Stockton</td>
<td>Establishes a minimum fine of $250 for a first violation and no more than a $500 fine and 30 days in county jail for a second violation of poaching laws.</td>
<td>Signed into law Oct. 8, 1997.</td>
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MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION-SPONSORED RIGHT-TO-KNOW BILL

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<tr>
<td>AB 1169</td>
<td>Assembly Member Kevin Shelley, D-San Francisco</td>
<td>This bill would have required that the Fish and Game Commission, Board of Forestry, State Parks Board, State Water Resources Control Board and other regulatory agencies post their agendas, meeting minutes, board packets and other legally public documents on the Internet.</td>
<td>Vetoed on Sept. 19, 1998.</td>
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WILDLIFE HABITAT/LAND ACQUISITION LEGISLATION

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<td>AB 1986</td>
<td>Assembly Member Carol Migden, D-San Francisco</td>
<td>Appropriates $245 million from the state’s General Fund to buy a portion of the Headwaters Forest in order to create a redwood forest preserve.</td>
<td>Signed into law Sept. 21, 1998.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 1546</td>
<td>Sen. Ross Johnson, R-Irvine</td>
<td>Gives the DFG $200,000 to operate and maintain the Newport Bay Ecological Reserve, a 752-acre saltwater marsh and home of wildlife and two endangered species.</td>
<td>Signed into law on Sept. 23, 1998.</td>
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ANIMAL PROTECTION

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GOVERNOR VETOES RIGHT-TO-KNOW BILL

Under current law, many agencies hold public meetings for the purpose of public comment. Some of these agencies were created specifically to provide the public access to government decisions that would greatly affect their lives. Taxpayers spend millions of dollars annually for this service. However, in areas outside the immediate Sacramento area it has often been impossible to get agenda or other information until after a decision has been made.

AB 1169 by Assembly Member Kevin Shelley would have required these public documents to be posted on the internet so
that the public would have had at least a chance to get information.

The Governor’s Administration fought this bill from the beginning. The Department of Finance opined that this much information would just confuse people. We guess they forgot that the law requires it to be public! This bill added another tool for distribution.

Most remarkable was the Department of Fish and Game’s opposition. We quote:

“There is a strong possibility of receiving a flood of anti-hunting or anti-fishing comments on every proposed regulation change which would be worldwide in scope and make it impossible to respond in a timely manner to complete a rule change.”

Conservation groups have long suspected that—in violation of law—agencies withheld information in order to control their work flow. Now they admit who they withhold it from.

Somehow, public agencies still cling to the notion—however soundly rejected by the founding fathers themselves, that they are an entity separate and apart from the public they serve. The notion that the public must be protected from public documents is a script for the “X-files.”

**AB 1169 WOULD HAVE EXPOSED THIS TYPE OF SUBTERFUGE AS WELL.**

In his veto message, Gov. Wilson said these documents were available within ten days under the Public Records Act. Maybe the Governor can get information this quickly, but MLF has never heard of any ordinary citizen or conservation group receiving a PRA response in this amount of time.

The Foundation, on behalf of citizens everywhere, thanks Assembly Member Kevin Shelley and his staff members, Josephine Figueroa and Dia Goode, for their continued dedication to good government and the public’s right to know. We will continue to work with the new governor to make it possible for citizens to know what government is planning to do to them. MLF

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**CARING**

The Mountain Lion Foundation Visa card

**Save Money**
- No Annual Fee
- 5.9% Fixed Introductory Annual Percentage Rate (APR) on cash advance checks and balance transfers
- Fraud protection*

**Save Time**
- Credit line increase decisions in 30 minutes or less
- 24-Hour Customer Satisfaction

**Save Mountain Lions**
- A unique custom-designed card that proudly displays the Mountain Lion Foundation logo
- Every purchase helps the Mountain Lion Foundation preserve wildlife habitats, fund anti-poaching measures, and develop educational exhibits
- Show your support today!

**Request Yours Today!**
Call 1-800-523-7666

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When you deduct from your paycheck for workplace charitable giving campaigns, remember the Mountain Lion Foundation. You may designate EarthShare to give to many worthwhile conservation organizations or you may designate the Mountain Lion Foundation solely. Even if EarthShare is not part of your campaign, you may write us in on other forms (such as United Way).

Earth Share of California is a federation of the State’s leading non-profit environmental and conservation charities, promoting environmental education and charitable giving in workplace payroll-deduction campaigns.
Everyone likes to be remembered for something.
That's just human nature.
The Mountain Lion Foundation invites those planning
their estates to leave a legacy for mountain lions and other
wildlife.

This can be done in a number of ways:
• By earmarking a donation in your will.
• By naming the foundation as beneficiary of insurance
  policies, retirement plans, or saving bonds.
• Through donations of appreciated stocks or property.
• With a charitable remainder trust.
• Through a gift that is directed to a specific purpose.
• Or with another planned-giving mechanism.

With highly personalized service, we can help you
through the process — whether it's understanding estate
planning options or by helping solve a tax problem.

For more information, please contact Tom Martens,
Mountain Lion Foundation, Box 1896, Sacramento, CA.
95812 (916-442-2666, ext. 106).
Together, we can create an enduring partnership for
wildlife, a legacy for lions.