Give Wildlife Your Vote

The single best thing you can do for wildlife right now is to Vote Yes on Props 12 and 13 on Tuesday March 7. The next thing you can do is get all your friends and neighbors to do the same.

Just as humans destroy habitat, leaving wildlife without food and shelter, people must now act to protect animals, preserving the precious habitat that is left.

As we said in our last newsletter, Propositions 12 and 13, together, would provide more than $1 billion in bond funds to protect wildlife by preserving habitat and water supplies. They also would provide parks and clean water for humans.

It has been more than a decade since voters provided funding for habitat and the need is overwhelming. Conservative estimates top $12 billion for this decade!

Why haven’t you heard more about Props 12 and 13 wildlife benefits? Campaign consultants know wildlife can’t vote and they don’t watch TV or listen to the radio. Consequently, the Props 12 and 13 ads talk about what the ballot measures will do for humans’ drinking water quality. They assume that humans will act only on their own behalf rather than also considering their fellow creatures.

We know you are more responsible than that. You know that an animal that starves to death for lack of food and water dies no more humanely than an animal that is hunted down and shot. And we know you will take action when you can.

To learn more about Propositions 12 and 13, see page 2, check out our website, read your ballot pamphlets. This time you can vote with your head and your heart. Yes on Props 12 and 13.
Highlights of Wildlife Benefits for Props 12 and 13

Both Props 12 and 13 are ballot measures asking the voters to vote for the issuance of bonds to raise money to protect habitat in California. The State sells bonds to people and institutions that are willing to lend money for this purpose. This is akin to getting a mortgage for wildlife homes.

Some highlights of Proposition 12 are: more than $500 million specifically to protect land that is home to some of the state’s most endangered species; $82.5 million for wildlife corridors; $75 million for wetlands and rivers; $23 million for native oaks, ancient redwoods and other forests; $7 million for environmental restoration such as removal of non-native plants that harm ecological centers.

Some highlights of Proposition 13, which includes even more wildlife protections funds, include: $468 million for Watershed Protection Programs to help rivers, lakes and coastal fisheries; and $25 million for urban stream restoration. Some programs are written in human terms, so it is more difficult to quantify the wildlife implications.

For example, a good portion of $292 million in flood protection funds will be a tremendous boost to the protection of wildlife. Some of these funds would help buy lowlands so that rivers could be allowed to naturally meander, creating wetlands and riparian corridors.

And while urban water conservation programs don’t sound very habitat oriented, we all witness the restoration of Mono Lake’s habitat values when humans in Los Angeles pull less water from that watershed.

Although it is difficult to completely calculate all the benefits to wildlife, it is safe to estimate that more than $1 billion from these measures would immediately and directly benefit wildlife. More than another billion dollars would indirectly help our natural resources with benefits that would be realized within the first year of expenditures. Most of the remaining funds would still provide long-term benefits, albeit less direct.

The ballot pamphlet from the Secretary of State contains the full text of these measures. Check out www.mountainlion.org for easy links to information via the internet. Call us if you have questions.
DFG Failed to Follow Bear Cub Policies, Baby Bears Killed

The Department of Fish and Game has admitted to killing baby bears in violation of a negotiated agreement between DFG and animal groups. The brother of one of those cubs is featured in the painting “Oliver’s Plea,” used in an education campaign by the Bear Preservation League, a project of the Mountain Lion Foundation.

Thanks to research provided by MLF, the Sacramento Bee broke this story in January. Ironically, the Bee had previously published a three-part series congratulating the department on this agreement and hailing their progress.

As is often the case with DFG policies, it took several weeks of gathering ever-conflicting information to figure out what was going on. Even now, several details are missing, but an unpleasant picture has emerged.

In 1995, a coalition of animal groups, testified at a Fish and Game Commission hearing that bear policies were inconsistent and inappropriate. FGC ordered the department to meet with the group to iron out these issues. As a result, a new bear policy was drafted and approved in July 1996.

The most outstanding feature of this new agreement was that DFG would rehabilitate orphaned bear cubs weighing less than 50 pounds and the Animal Protection Institute would pay for the rehab. It was further understood that DFG would collar the bears upon their release and monitor their progress in the wild.

Unfortunately, this newly approved policy was never written into the operations manuals so that folks in the field did not know it. In fact, in 1999, at two separate Bear Preservation League training sessions, DFG officials photocopied and distributed the old policy and stated it was the department’s current policy on bears.

Worse, when MLF asked for clarification, MLF received newly drafted cub rehab guidelines that had never been disclosed to the parties in the negotiation and that completely undermined the negotiated agreement!

Those new guidelines stated that only orphaned cubs under 20 pounds and that had not been with a depredating mother and were individually approved by the deputy director were eligible for rehab!

A DFG official told MLF that a cub with a depredating mother bear was collectively considered a nuisance and both were shot! While the official refused to disclose how many such cubs had been killed, the Bee reported around a dozen.

This story still thickens. Caught in the act, DFG quickly began gathering excuses for failing to honor the agreement.

First, they said they had not evaluated the effectiveness of rehab. When asked what would be the criteria for such evaluation, it was revealed they are not doing any studies to examine the program! In fact, the Animal Protection Institute reports DFG did not even track the seven bears they have rehabilitated, released and collared — even though they billed API for the collars.

Furthermore, several states surrounding California have cub rehab programs. Idaho and Washington report very successful rehab programs, so statistics are quite available.

Then DFG said rehab was too hard because there were no bear rehab facilities in California. Ironically, DFG has thus far refused to license any California wildlife care facilities for bear cub rehabilitation. MLF knows of one well-respected care facility director that has been to Washington and Idaho to study their rehab programs and has been successfully jumping through DFG hoops for some time, still waiting for licensure.

MLF staff and representatives from other wildlife groups from around the state are meeting with DFG, testifying at Fish and Game Commission hearings, and cooperating with the media to get DFG back on track with this program.

MLF considers this one small example of a much larger problem facing California wildlife. With the human population booming, and habitat shrinking, our wildlife face ever increasing challenges just to survive. When the department charged with the care of these animals continues to undermine its own credibility, it is small wonder that the public casts a jaundiced eye on DFG’s cries for help.

At the same time, hunting and fishing income to the department is dropping and DFG cannot survive without working effectively with more and more of the public. Unfortunately, many DFG officials remain locked in the past, either unaware or unwilling to accept that the Department’s mission and goals have changed. It may well be that nothing short of a complete reinvention of the Department can save our wildlife.
Change in Law Needed to Protect Wildlife

When it comes to protecting native wildlife, endangered species, and the areas that our wildlife call home, we must come to grips with California’s burgeoning human population and the urbanizing effect California’s expected growth will have on our native wildlife heritage.

To help combat this problem, the Mountain Lion Foundation will be urging the California Legislature to strengthen the California Environmental Quality Act. Right now, agencies with jurisdiction over development are required to mitigate, or reduce, the affect the development will have on wildlife, unless it is not feasible to do so. Usually, this means permanently protecting some nearby land.

Unfortunately, some agencies just say it is not feasible to mitigate and they adopt a “statement of overriding consideration” and then just go on about their business.

This statement was supposed to be used only when there was no way to reduce the impacts on wildlife, but when the benefit to the public was so strong, the development had to go forward anyway.

Many decisions affecting wildlife are made by local agencies that have only local economic interests in mind. For example, a subdivision project that promises to bring upscale homes to a community or an auto mall that brings economic return through taxes are routinely approved despite the significant adverse effects on wildlife. So wildlife areas by the hundreds of thousands of acres are being bulldozed and buried, because these areas are in the path of revenue-generating development.

Our bill would require the agency to notify the Department of Fish and Game before it tries to issue a statement of override. This measure would essentially insert an unbiased third party expert into the process who would also provide a state-wide or regional point of view.

MLF’s bill will help provide proof, on the record, when wildlife areas could be protected or restored. Under CEQA, if mitigation can be done, it must be done. No longer could local interests dictate life and death decisions over state resources.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

At publication deadline, this bill did not yet have a bill number. However, you can support it by writing to Senator Byron Sher, Chair, Environmental Quality Committee, and to Assembly Member Howard Wayne, Natural Resources Committee. Address both to State Capitol, Sacramento, California 95814. Refer to the bill as the MLF proposal to strengthen CEQA.

Adopt-A-Lion

This year, instead of the same old gifts of flowers for mom on Mother’s Day and a tie for dad on Father’s Day, why not try something new? Give them a gift that they will love and that will help ensure the survival of our wildlife. The proceeds of your symbolic adoption benefit the Mountain Lion Foundation’s educational outreach programs. Your special “adopt” packet will include the following: ‘Welcome’ scroll, personalized certificate with color photo, native folklore, mountain lion fact sheets. The adoption costs $25.00 and is tax-deductible.

Year 2000 Mountain Lion Calendar

“The cougar works a powerful magic on the human imagination.” (Robert Redford)

Celebrate the beauty of the mountain lion with our year 2000 calendar. The stunning images captured by wildlife photographer Denver Bryan will enhance the days and months of all who receive it. Was $10.95 Now only $5.00

Springing into Summer

The summer is fast approaching us and people are beginning to enjoy nature’s beauty through hiking, biking, rafting and many other outdoor activities.

What better way to tote around everything you need for an active day than in our “Walk on the Wild Side” Fanny Pack. Made from heavyweight premium cotton canvas, this funny pack sells for $17.95 plus shipping and handling (CA residents add 7.75% tax). Its six pockets can carry all of your outdoor needs and, the center pouch is perfect for your water bottle or camera lens.

To order, please either call 916-442-2666 extension 104, visit our website at www.mountainlion.org, or write to us at PO Box 1896, Sacramento, CA, 95812.
OUR WILDLANDS ARE DISAPPEARING FAST.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PRESERVE THE LAST WILDERNESS IN CALIFORNIA.

BE A PART OF THE DYNAMIC CAMPAIGN TO SAVE MILLIONS OF ACRES OF HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE AND NATIVE PLANTS. MEET THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE HELPED CREATE WILDERNESS IN THE PAST THREE DECADES, AND WHO ARE STRATEGIZING AND WORKING TO PROTECT OUR REMAINING WILDERNESS HERITAGE.

IT IS TIME TO GATHER, TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS, AND ORGANIZE!

Key Speakers include:

PAUL SPITLER, Executive Director, California Wilderness Coalition, has sparked the effort to protect California’s remaining wildlands.

JIM EATON, founder, California Wilderness Coalition, headed the CWC for over 20 years. Affectionately known as “Mr. Wilderness.”

CHRIS ARTHUR, former legislative director for Congressman Maurice Hinchey, will inform our efforts to influence the general public and the U.S. Congress.

IZZY MARTIN, Supervisor for Nevada County, led the effort in the state legislature to designate the South Yuba River as Wild and Scenic. Her efforts to build coalitions must be emulated by all.


CONNIE STEWART is Mayor of Arcata and office manager for the Northcoast Environmental Center.

DOUG SCOTT, People for Puget Sound, has led wilderness advocacy efforts in the Northwest, and speaks eloquently about the wilderness movement’s history.

SCOTT HOFFMAN BLACK is Director of the California Wild Heritage Campaign.

SUSAN HOPE BOWER works with the Christian Environmental Council and the North American Coalition for Christianity and Ecology.

CHRIS PETERS is Executive Director of Seventh Generation Fund, a national Native American public foundation dedicated to protecting land, resources and Native peoples.

DAVID FOREMAN worked for many years for The Wilderness Society. He also helped to found the visionary Wildlands Project.

GARY SNYDER, Pulitzer Prize winning poet, writes of a “sense of place” and the meaning of belonging to your watershed.

DAVID ROBERTSON co-leads the Cache-Putah Bioregion Project at UC Davis and is an English professor.

BETSY REIFSNIDER is Executive Director of Friends of the River. She also worked for many years for the Mono Lake Committee.

JAY WATSON is Western Regional Director of The Wilderness Society and has also focused on the protection of Yosemite National Park.

BARBARA BOYLE California/Nevada/Hawaii Regional Director, Sierra Club, is a veteran of many campaigns. Barb’s knowledge and organizing expertise are invaluable.

Key Panels include:

REGIONAL PANELS FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
The California Wild Heritage Campaign organizers will help us work together region by region to identify key decision makers, analyze our opposition, and develop our tools and plans to ensure success.

WOMEN IN WILDERNESS
What special perspectives, qualities and strengths can women offer to the wilderness movement? Susan Tixier, Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

FINDING COMMON GROUND: BUSINESS PARTNERS
How do we identify and work with businesses to advocate for wilderness protection? Leigh Fitzpatrick, Sierra Business Council.

WILDERNESS SCIENCE & THE WILDLANDS PROJECT
The Wildlands Project is a visionary approach to restoring and protecting the ecological biodiversity of the North American continent. Dave Foreman, The Wildlands Project.

WILDERNESS ON OUR PUBLIC LANDS: CURRENT PHILOSOPHY, ACTION AND MANAGEMENT
This discussion will focus on wilderness stewardship and management issues faced by public agencies and look at what they envision in the 21st Century. Jim Eaton, founder, California Wilderness Coalition.

ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL
How to focus positive actions on key decision-makers and blunt the power of your opposition.

USING THE MEDIA: IF A TREE FALLS IN THE FOREST AND LOCAL TV NEWS DIDN’T COVER IT, DID IT REALLY FALL?
Get your message out and do it creatively: ideas and strategies.

CREATION: VALUING SPIRITUALITY
People from several faith traditions will reflect on our human role as members of the community of life, called to protect and treasure all of God’s creation.

WILDERNESS AS HABITAT
Challenges we face in protecting old growth trees, oaks, bears, lions, eagles, amphibians, tule elk, martin, fisher, and bighorn sheep. Lynn Sadler, Mountain Lion Foundation.

THE CALIFORNIA DESERT ACT: WE’RE NOT DONE
Come hear from those who were and who remain in the trenches as the complex follow-up of that monumental legislation unfolds. Jim Dodson, Sierra Club.

WILDERNESS USERS: CONFLICT RESOLUTION
Can we find tolerance and understanding for traditional wilderness users? Listen as those most affected outline their concerns and needs. Sally Miller, The Wilderness Society.

CULTURAL VALUES & THE WILDERNESS MOVEMENT
Learn more about dynamic leadership demonstrated by members of California’s diverse ethnic groups. Connie Stewart, Mayor of Arcata.
"Stop the bulldozers and lock up the chainsaws. This may be our last chance to save significant bits of the California that was. All wilderness advocates should attend the conference."

— Martin Litton

In the last 20 years we have lost wilderness in California the size of Yosemite National Park. It is time to organize to stop this loss.

The California Wilderness Conference will inspire, educate and activate friends of wilderness from across the Golden State. Wilderness faithful — young and old, new and seasoned, people of faith and people of color, Native Americans — and others will meet to celebrate our victories, learn from those who made wilderness happen, and organize a campaign to preserve California's remaining unprotected wilderness.

Join us and help make history.
— Paul Spitler, Executive Director
California Wilderness Coalition

Conference Sponsors:
California Wilderness Coalition, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Friends of the River, Mountain Lion Foundation, and the Seventh Generation Fund (Partial List)

Friday
1:00 pm Welcome to the California Wilderness Conference
Paul Spitler, Exec. Dir., California Wilderness Coalition
1:15-1:40 Keynote — California Wilderness: History & Future
Jim Eaton, founder, California Wilderness Coalition
1:45-3:15 The 1964 Wilderness Act — A panel moderated by
Joey Watson, Regional Director, The Wilderness Society
3:30-4:30 The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act — A panel moderated by
Betsy Reifsnider, Executive Director, Friends of the River
4:30-5:00 Diversity in Wilderness Activism
5:00-5:30 Grantland Johnson, Secretary, California Health & Human Services (invited)
8:00-10:00 Evening Mixer, John Muir (Frank Helling), Dave Foreman, Friends of Nevada wilderness

"Forever Wild" slide show

Saturday
8:30-9:00 am Keys to Success — Barb Boyle, California/Nevada/Hawaii Regional Director, Sierra Club
9:00-10:00 California Wild Heritage Campaign slide show
10:00-10:30 Wilderness on the National Scene — Doug Scott
10:45-12:00 Issue Panels — Session I
1:00-1:25 Issue Panels — Session II
1:30-4:00 Regional Workshop
4:15-5:30 Issue Panels — Session III
6:30-11:00 pm Dinner — Emceed by Joan Reinhardt Reiss, President, CWC

A Success Story: the South Yuba Wild and Scenic River
Nevada County Supervisor Izzy Martin
Vignettes, recognition and awards with David Brower, Martin Litton, Ike Livermore, Harriet Allen, Ed and Peggy Wayburn, Lucille Vinyard, Marge Sill, Elden Hughes, Katherine Petterson, Floyd Buckskin, Theodore Martinez, and many others
Mumbo Gumbo — music

Sunday
8:30-9:30 Wildland Spirituality — David Robertson, Putah-Cache Bioregion Project; Gary Snyder, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet; and Reverend Sharon Delgado, Earth Justice Ministries
9:30-9:50 Why Environmentalists Aren't as Popular as They Once Were — Chris Arthur, legislative expert
10:00-11:30 Regional Workshop — Session II
11:40-12:10 A Call to Action — Dave Foreman, founder, The Wildlands Project
12:10-12:20 Final thank-yous and adjourn
1:00-4:00 Group meetings and presentations

California Wilderness Conference Registration Form

Please complete this form and mail it, with payment (check or credit card) to California Wilderness Coalition, CONFERENCE, 2655 Portage Bay East, #5, Davis, CA 95616. Forms may be faxed to (530) 758-0382, or emailed to info@calwild.org. Registration confirmation* will be sent upon receipt of payment. (Please print)

First Name ___________________________ Last Name ___________________________
Address ____________________________ City __________ State __________ Zip __________
Affiliated organization ____________________________ Title or Position ___________________________
Home Phone ____________________________ Work Ph. ____________________________ Fax __________ Email ___________________________

Which wilderness have you adopted, or which is your favorite?
Please print names of all registrants here:
1. ____________________________ 2. ____________________________ 3. ____________________________ 4. ____________________________

Registration Items # of Items Total
Conference ____________________________ @ $45 ____________________________
Saturday box lunch ____________________________ @ $9 ____________________________
Saturday Celebration dinner (must pre-register) ____________________________ @ $25 ____________________________
Conference T-shirt ____________________________ @ $12 ____________________________
Dinner: [ ] Chicken [ ] Vegetarian Total Fee ____________________________

Some scholarships available)

[ ] I am interested in a scholarship
[ ] I am interested in staying with a host

Credit Card: [ ] Visa [ ] MasterCard [ ] American Express

Owner's Name (print as appears on card) ____________________________ Exp. Date ____________________________

Owner's Card Number ____________________________ Date ____________________________

*Information on lodging will be included with your registration confirmation packet.
Top California resources managers are proposing to spend $150,000 to study how to find new money for its ailing fish and game agency.

Parent of the California Department of Fish and Game, top Resources Agency officials said they will study how to funnel more money into the DFG, which is suffering from $7 million in reduced income this year from a drop in sales of fishing and hunting licenses.

The DFG receives about one-third of its $200 million funding from the license revenues.

Because of California’s increasingly urbanized population, the number of residents who hunt or fish is shrinking, while the number of non-consumptive wildlife enthusiasts is growing at an enormous rate.

Fish and Game has spent a number of years trying to figure out how to get the non-game users to pay for their work. A proposal that would have charged to use wildlife preserves flopped after it was poorly promoted.

According to Resource Agency officials, the study could also include how to reorganize the DFG to operate in a more cost efficient and effective manner.

State fish and game officials are asking the State Legislature to spend $771,000 each year for the next three years to create and implement a recovery plan for the endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep.

"Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep are the most endangered mammals in North America," said the California Department of Fish and Game’s budget request. “Due to the high level of public attention and concern, the DFG is implementing a population recovery program for the sheep in the Sierra Nevada.”

After plummeting to some 100 animals, the Sierra Nevada bighorn species was listed as endangered under the federal and state endangered species acts. The bighorns were first listed as “fully protected” in 1870 by the state Fish and Game Commission.

“The short-term population objective (within the first five years) will be to provide for the existence of one herd at 75 animals,” said the DFG’s budget request. “The long-term recovery goals is for 10 sub-populations with 100 animals per group over a 15 to 20 year period.”

If approved in the final budget this summer, the funds would allow the department to hire a senior wildlife biologist, two associate biologists to work on monitoring, a research scientist and a research geneticist to complete the plan and begin implementation and scientific monitoring.

After intense lobbying by the Mountain Lion Foundation, the State Legislature spent $1.2 million in the DFG’s current budget for bighorn recovery.

To support this budget request, write Sen. Byron Sher, chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #2, Room 2002, State Capitol, Sacramento, 94214, or Assembly Member Virginia Ston-Martin, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3, Room 3146, at the State Capitol.

In an exciting partnership with the National Audubon Society, the Mountain Lion Foundation is conducting endangered species education workshops for California teachers. The Adopt-A-Species curriculum is a science-based program that provides real-life benefits to California wildlife, and develops community partnerships between schools, resource agencies and conservation organizations.

Our first workshop at Cesar Chavez Middle school in Hayward was a success; teachers especially appreciated the “excellent resources and presentations”. Subsequent workshops were scheduled in Antioch, San Luis Obispo and Marin. The vital message of wildlife conservation and habitat restoration is being delivered through the efforts of the Foundation and Audubon, as well as numerous volunteers.

If you are a teacher or have experience in wildlife conservation, you can join in these great workshops and team efforts as California schools gear up to save our wildlife and wild resources!

Use the form on the back page to volunteer.
Remember Us in Your Will

Everyone likes to be remembered for something — to gain a little slice of immortality.

That's just human nature.

Here's a way that you can be remembered forever.

As part of your will, make a gift to the Mountain Lion Foundation to support general operation or a specific project.

We will, in turn, put the funds to work creating policies that preserve the lives of mountain lions and other wildlife.

The gift can be made in a number of ways:

Making a Bequest

In writing or updating your will, you can either designate the foundation as a beneficiary with an amount for general support or earmark the money for a specific project or program.

Here is some suggested language:

"The Mountain Lion Foundation is a tax exempt organization under the federal and California tax code and is located at 926 J St., Suite 803, Sacramento, California 91814 (mailing address, Box 1896, Sacramento, CA. 95812)."

Unrestricted Contribution

The amount of the bequest can be "undesignated," which means the foundation's Board of Directors will find the best conservation use for the funds.

For such an unrestricted gift, use this language: "I give and bequest to the Mountain Lion Foundation (an amount or percent of the estate)."

Program Contribution

A bequest can be designed for a special purpose, such as a program like wildlife education, litigation, antipoaching activities or made as a contribution to the endowment.

For restricted bequests, use this language: "I give and bequeath to the Mountain Lion Foundation (an amount or percent of the estate) to be used for the following purposes (add the purposes)." Please consult with the foundation staff to make sure your objectives are feasible and achievable.

Endowment Contribution

Particularly for large gifts, contributions to the foundation's endowment or endowed projects can be an excellent means of ensuring that the work continues. With an endowment, the gift is invested and the annual interest used to provide financial support.

Here is some suggested language for these kind of gifts: "I give and bequeath to the Mountain Lion Foundation (an amount or percent of the estate) to be used for the general endowment or to endow (add a specific project or program)." Again, please check with staff before making such a gift.

For more information on wills or other ways to provide support, contact Tom Martens, Director of Development, Mountain Lion Fountain, Box 1896, Sacramento, CA. 95616. (916-442-2666, ext. 106). Or send an e-mail to tmartens@mountainlion.org.

MLF
Good Luck Carsynn!

Carsynn Costa, our Finance and Operations Director, is moving on to become Finance Director of Simply Music, an innovative Sacramento-based music education company. Carsynn first joined the Foundation 11 years ago as an administrative assistant.

Carsynn saw MLF through the Prop 117 campaign and served as Interim Director during the No on 197 campaign. She also helped us survive four office moves and the advent of computer technology. Former President and CLAW director, Bill Yeates, credits Carsynn with holding the Foundation together when activists were mounting statewide media campaigns opposing the proposed lion hunting season. She helped recruit volunteers to attend public events, support and oppose legislation, and launch the largest all-volunteer effort to gather signatures for a statewide initiative.

We might all be in jail today, but for Carsynn.

"Despite piles of paper where ever she turned, the never ending demand on her time, the non-stop ringing of the phone, and the many tasks that no job description could ever describe, Carsynn added some control and order to this frenetic scene," Yeates recalls. From the most inconsequential hieroglyphics on crumpled pieces of paper and torn Post-it notes, which were left scattered in vague proximity to her desk, Carsynn prepared and filed the required reports with the Secretary of the State, the auditor, and the IRS. "We might all be in jail today, but for Carsynn," Yeates added.

The Foundation will miss her humor and can-do attitude. We will also miss the daily access to pictures and stories of her daughters, Carlynn and Adelynn, pictured here with Carsynn. They are equally a part of the MLF family.

Good luck and thank you, Carsynn!

EVERYONE'S INVITED

Join us for a very special SnowFest event.
As part of the Second Largest Winter Carnival in the US, “A Bear Affair” will be Friday, March 3 from 6-8 p.m. at the Tahoe Tree Company in Tahoe City.

Wine by Wente Bros.
Appetizers by Wolfdales and other fine area restaurants.
Silent auction of selected fine art.
$10 per person, $15 per couple.

The turn of the century brought great news to Californians. Our state's general fund is flush with money this year. As a result, we are seizing the day and taking advantage of this tremendous opportunity by competing (along with many others) for some of these funds for two very important programs: Adopt-a-Species and Bear Protection Programs.

If you happened to catch the State of the State, you are aware that Governor Davis is making education a priority. That makes this year a perfect year to finally appropriate enough money in the budget to once again fund the Adopt-a-Species program. This remarkable program, developed by the National Audubon Society with the Departments of Education and Fish and Game, provides environmental education and leadership opportunities for California school children. Unfortunately, the previous Administration cut the funding for this program and MLF is keeping it on life support for now, with Education Director Deborah Carol in the lead.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:**
Write to Senator Jack O'Connell, Chair, Senate Budget Sub Committee on Education, and to Assembly Member Sarah Reyes, Chair, Assembly Budget Sub-Committee on Education. Address both to State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. Ask them to support funding for the Adopt-A-Species program.

We will also be requesting funds for bear proof food storage lockers and garbage containers as part of our program to protect California black bears. The goal is to require State Parks to supply these containers at park campsites and to provide incentives to private campground owners to also supply these containers. This in turn reduces human to bear conflicts and prevents bears from being shot as “nuisance” animals. We hope to work with garbage collectors to phase in the program and educate citizens how to live safely and in harmony with black bears.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:**
Write to Senator Byron Sher, Chair, Senate Budget Sub-Committee on Resources, and to Assembly Member Virginia Strom-Martin, Chair, Assembly Budget Sub-Committee on Resources. Address both to State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. Ask them to support funding for bear proof containers and programs to protect bears in parks and campgrounds.
Survey of Member Interest

Dear Mountain Lion Foundation Member,

You win a second chance! This survey is the same as the one in the last newsletter. For those of you who completed that, bless you. For those who forgot, won’t you please help us now?

In an effort to save paper (and trees), we would like to tailor our activities to the specific interest of members.

Please take a moment to complete this survey, which can be returned to the foundation office in the enclosed envelope.

We thank you for helping us with this important, paper-saving project (and the trees thank you too.).

The Mountain Lion Foundation Staff

What are your conservation priorities (check all that apply)?

- Mountain Lions
- Bighorn Sheep
- Bears
- Predators
- Bobcats
- Feral Cats
- Salmon and Trout
- Endangered Species
- Humane Animal Issues
- All Wildlife
- Other Wildlife Species:

What are your preferences for grassroots activities (check all that apply)?

- Adopt-A-Lion
- Letter Writing
- Research
- Local Grassroots Work
- Traveling Exhibit Work
- Agency Monitoring
- Working with Schools
- Signature Gathering
- Presentations to Groups

Name__________________________ Occupation__________________________

Address__________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip_____________________________________________________

Phone (_____)_____________________________ E-Mail____________________

See Back for Additional Information
Member Interest Survey Continued

How would you like to help with fundraising (check all that apply)?

- Wills and Bequests
- Gifts of Stock
- Other Planned Gifts
- Monthly Gifts
- Special Events
- Program Endowment
- Purchasing Gifts
- Credit Cards

In what way would you participate in Adopt-A-Species Education Program?

- Educator or Administrator who would like to bring this program to students
- Facilitator to assist in conducting workshops
- Scientist
- Interpretive professional
- Resource agency staff
- Wildlife care professional
- Other

- Student or parent who would like this presented in their school
- Volunteer to assist students and teachers during projects

How would you like to help the anti-poaching program?

- Turn in a poacher. Share information about poaching in your area
- Ask your television station to carry the Anti-Poaching Public Service Announcements

Tuesday, March 7
Give Wildlife Your Vote Yes on Props 12 and 13

Printed by Commerce Printing, Sacramento, CA
Cover banner photo courtesy of Alan Carey

MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION
Protecting California's Wildlife
P.O. Box 1896
Sacramento, CA 95812
916/442-2666