P-1 + P-2 = 4 Puma kittens born wild and free

Researchers knew from radio-collar transmissions that P-1 and P-2, the last known mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains, spent a few days together in May. The scientists crossed their fingers and hoped for the best. Then in late August P-2 gave birth to four kittens, two females and two males (one pictured above).

This story is extraordinary considering the close-call P-1 had last year after succumbing to the temptation of a quick and easy meal of goats. As allowed by law, the owner of the goats received a depredation permit, hired a hunter and it looked as if P-1’s days were numbered. Thanks to the public outcry, concern of park officials, and the quick action and solutions offered by MLF, the hunter was called off, the depredation permit was allowed to expire and P-1 survived.

The year ends on a happy note for the lions of the Santa Monica Mountains. Using the signal of P-2's radio-collar trans-
From the President

Because the Foundation takes its hands-on, on-the-ground, grassroots work seriously — because we know that we are the leading force standing between Saving America’s Lion and ultimately extinction — sometimes we forget that we also are part of a world-wide effort.

This summer, I had the privilege of meeting one of our German members, Dr. Otto Ziegler, in Munich. As he graciously motored us around the Bavarian country side, I was reminded that our mission is truly global. Just as many Americans contribute to help the African lion, or the cheetah or the elephant, people from other countries contribute to help the American lion.

Mountain lions don’t just belong to one state, much less to a particular Fish and Game Department; they are part of earth’s intricate web of life. While many members work with us because they have mountain lions in their area, we are equally grateful to those members who are especially motivated precisely because they don’t have mountain lions in their area.

Recently, I joined folks at a Wildlife Conservation Network dinner and chatted with international conservationists working to protect the painted dog, the African elephant, the cheetah, and the snow leopard. Virtually every effort was a variation on our own — all dealing with resolving human-wildlife conflicts and over-hunting. Actress and keynote speaker Isabella Rosellini made an especially insightful analogy: we are all dealing with resolving human-wildlife conflicts and over-hunting. As radio collars, high-powered rifles, night vision, and scent masks are made more and more effective, hunters are killing more mountain lions than ever before in history — even more than when lions were bountied.

When we turn to our dark side and ignore the needs of other species, we can indeed generate devastating results with far less effort and time than our ancestors. The old wildlife “management” paradigms must fall if our rich diversity of wildlife is to survive for generations to come.

By the time you read this, the Mountain Lion Foundation will have completed leading a day of scientific proceedings looking at the latest information on mountain lion conservation. We will have released the figures from our own study that will inform the next steps of a national plan for the conservation of mountain lions.

Even as we think globally, we know the solutions will be to act locally. With a new office in Southern California and new grassroots efforts begun in the State of Washington, you can count on us to always be expanding our on-the-ground efforts to Save America’s Lion.

Or, I should say, Planet Earth’s Lion.
Land conservation efforts yield historic results

Spirits ran high on September 23 as hundreds cheered the signing of an historic bill creating the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger chose a classic Sierra landscape along a crystal clear river to affix his signature to the bill co-authored by Assembly Members John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) and Tim Leslie (R-Carnelian Bay).

The new state agency will encompass 25 million acres from Kern County to the Oregon border and support many of California’s mountain lions, other wildlife and local economies.

Katherine Evatt, President of the Foothill Conservancy and former president of the Sierra Nevada Alliance, declared that creation of the new conservancy literally changed the world for Sierra residents.

“The idea that there is now an institution dedicated to what we work so hard for every day is just overwhelming!”, she said.

The Mountain Lion Foundation spends countless hours supporting habitat protection, both directly and through its work with other organizations.

In this case, MLF president Lynn Sadler served on the board of directors of the Sierra Nevada Alliance and the Planning and Conservation League, both of which were leaders in getting the legislation passed, as well as personally lobbied legislators. Along with the Sierra Fund, the Mono Lake Committee, the Sierra Land Trust Council and countless others, Sierrans finally saw this bill succeed after a decade of effort.

Author Assembly Member John Laird, Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, CalEPA Secretary Terry Tamminen, Co-author Assembly Member Tim Leslie at the signing of the Sierra Conservancy Bill.

“Habitat protection is one of the most important things we do” said Ms. Sadler.

“A lion that is starving to death for lack of a home can get into a lot of trouble before it dies a pretty miserable death,” Ms. Sadler added.

All staff and many MLF board members assist various coalitions, alliances and working groups to protect mountain lion and other wildlife habitat. Two MLF volunteer interns have focused specifically on wildlife corridors, especially as they are impacted by highways.

MLF Associate Director Tim Dunbar provides supporting documentation for agencies and groups that are working to preserve mountain lion habitat and corridors. He also helps encourage agencies to make sure that human activities on that land will be compatible with mountain lion survival.

Conservation Program Director Michelle Cullens witnesses challenges to mountain lion habitat on the ground and shares that information with groups that are dedicated to solving barriers to wildlife movement. She works with land trusts nationally to create wildlife-friendly easements and advises land use planners in wildlife needs.

Ms. Sadler also serves on the board of the South Coast Wildlands project that is leading a huge coalition of federal, state and local government agencies — as well as international land protection non-profits — to compile detailed scientific portfolios of the major wildlife corridors in Southern California so that they can be protected and functional.

In her own home, Ms. Sadler puts her broad habitat experi-
MLF Board and Staff still growing strong!

Toby Cooper, financial consultant with Merrill Lynch, is the new Chairman of the Mountain Lion Foundation Board. Mr. Cooper has been on the MLF Board since 1993, most recently serving as vice-president.

Mr. Cooper received his Masters of Science with emphases in zoology and wildlife management from the University of Michigan and later his MBA from UC-Berkeley. MLF will draw heavily on his experience as Program Director for Defenders of Wildlife (Washington, D.C) from 1973-1985 and as program staff for the National Parks and Conservation Association prior to that.

Mr. Cooper was a member of the 1968 U.S. Olympic Team in canoe racing and today competes in equestrian sports and sailing. After the May 2004 killing of a treed mountain lion in Palo Alto, Mr. Cooper acted as a media liaison for interviews, community meetings and USA Today.

“The mountain lion is both at a crossroads, and in the cross hairs, in the United States,” says Mr. Cooper. “The time is now to secure the future of the American lion.”

On behalf of the Foundation, Mr. Cooper offered appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Patrick Gallagher, of the Sierra Club, for his valuable service as the 2003-2004 President and for his continued service on the Board of Directors.

Patrick’s tenure saw enormous strides in both the national expansions of the Foundation as well as in the grassroots field work.

On the staff level, MLF Conservation Biologist, Chris Papouchis is off for an eight-month adventure, traveling around the world.

Motivated by world events, a plan to work on his PhD in 2005, and a strong desire to see this beautiful planet-- Mr. Papouchis said he could see no time like the present to travel the globe “to learn the perspective of other cultures, their relationships with earth and with large predators”.

The Foundation welcomes Christa Mann, MLF’s newest full-time team member and field representative for Southern California.

Ms. Mann says the most gratifying part of the job will be the positive impact she will have on the people and the mountain lions of Southern California.

“I will be able to make a difference by emphasizing the simple changes people can make in their behavior and around their house to protect wildlife,” said Ms. Mann.

Ms. Mann began working with MLF part-time assisting with “On the Edge” presentations in Southern California soon after graduating from UCLA in 2002. With her degree in environmental studies and geography and an interest in pursuing a career in education, Ms. Mann says she has found an excellent niche to combine her talents and interests by handling public outreach programs from San Luis Obispo county to San Diego county.

The Sacramento headquarters is also getting an infusion of energy and experience with new part-time employees and volunteers working behind the scenes. Among these are Nancy Blue and Katherine Porras in Member Services Support, Linda Chan in Conservation Program Support, Nancy Oliver and Suzanne Bowler in Development and Outreach Support, and Ashley Miller serving as Research Assistant.

Helping Southern California communities and residents

Christa Mann
Field Representative

Moorpark, CA
cmann@mountainlion.org
805/813-1221
Let your fingers do the walking

Revitalized website sets electronic outreach in motion

The MLF website has been revitalized to offer more services and information to our members and to everyone interested in protecting mountain lions. There are many features to make electronic interaction quicker, easier, and up-to-date. And will continue to grow to take advantage of this outreach opportunity.

What are a few of the changes?

Online payments: It is easier than ever to make donations, purchases, or join MLF. Credit card payments are now accepted online for those wanting to avoid printing, faxing or searching for stamps.

Giftshop: The online Giftshop has been reformatted to make it easier to find the perfect gift and to add new items as they become available.

Newsroom: Lions in the News provides easy access to news articles from across the country. Articles posted will be those determined to be of greatest interest and benefit.

Publications: Download and print-at-home the educational materials produced by MLF. This provides immediate satisfaction for those needing materials and saves MLF in printing costs.

Postcards: Share your interest in mountain lions by sending electronic postcards to your friends and family. These are offered free of charge on the new homepage.

A Gift to You: Send this beautiful free electronic holiday card to your friends and family to let them know you care about them and the survival of America’s lion.

It doesn’t stop here! MLF plans to implement a broader use of e-mail for staying in touch with members. E-mail messages can be easily forwarded to friends and family to share your interest in protecting mountain lions. Submit your current email address, which will be kept confidential, to receive invitations, alerts, appeals and e-newsletters (coming soon!) in a timely manner.

Log-in to www.mountainlion.org today and everyday to explore new sections and stay up-to-date.

Support Your Local Lion This Holiday Season

A conservation legacy can be an important part of your estate plan. You can realize significant financial benefits while taking pride in having helped save America’s lion.

Benefits from planned giving can include:

- Income and estate tax savings
- Regular payments of income

Some other ways to give:

- Offer gifts to MLF of appreciated stock or other property.
- Include MLF in your will or trust.
- Establish a charitable remainder trust.
- Donate your old car or vehicle to MLF as a charitable tax write off.
- Participate in corporate matching gift programs.
- Designate MLF as your “preferred” recipient in your employee giving campaign (EarthShare or United Way).
- If EarthShare is not included in your employer’s giving program, contact us and ask for it to be included.
- The Mountain Lion Foundation is a charitable nonprofit educational organization. Our Federal ID # is 94-33015360.
- To take advantage of these or any other gifting opportunities, please contact Tim Dunbar at 916/442-2666, extension 105.
Felton 4-H practices MLF pro-active solutions

When invited to participate in the MLF Living with Lions Ranchers' Assistance Program, the Felton 4-H Club was eager to join this pro-active movement. This program provides groups with the knowledge and understanding to make responsible decisions in their livestock management, and also includes a one-day workshop to build a predator-proof small livestock enclosure.

"4-H emphasizes learning and responsibility," said Howard Meyer, Felton 4-H leader. "This is a hands-on lesson in learning how and why taking responsibility for protecting our livestock also protects the community and the wildlife around us. The kids really get it."

Although their livestock had not suffered from mountain lion depredation, over the years there had been many mountain lion sightings in the surrounding San Lorenzo Valley.

MLF Conservation Biologist, Chris Papouchis, met with the 4-Hers for a presentation and lively discussion on mountain lion behavior, their importance to the ecosystem and how changing a few of their livestock management practices and attitudes could protect their livestock and help keep mountain lions in the wild. "The future of mountain lion conservation depends on the community based approach," said Mr. Papouchis.

On a following Saturday, assisted by MLF staff Mr. Papouchis and Tim Dunbar, the Felton 4-H Club members and parents put these new principles into practice by building a predator-proof enclosure. "The kids and parents working together and being able to complete this project in one-day were important to driving these issues home," said Mr. Meyer.

Each year at the county fair, the 4-H Clubs learn what livestock they will be raising through a lottery system. Pigs will be the first to call this safe haven home, but future residents may be sheep or goats. This enclosure was designed and built to last for years and to meet the needs of various livestock types.

While the pigs became accustomed to their new home, the builders enjoyed a hot dog roast and more discussion. This gave the 4-Hers the chance to share what they had learned earlier with their parents and gave parents the opportunity to have MLF staff address any remaining questions or concerns.

"This was a special experience for the kids and their parents. The pigs really haven't seemed impressed with the pen one way or the other," said Mr. Meyer. "Had they been aware of the two mountain lion sightings on the road right next to this project – maybe they would be a bit more appreciative."

Designs for building predator-proof pens are available free-of-charge at www.mountainlion.org in the publications section.
Upcoming Events:

November

3-4  UC Davis Environmental Internship and Career Fair
6-7  Lodi Crane Festival
8  Wildlife Society – Chapter Meeting, Davis
10  Living with Lions for Placer Nature Center
    7:00 p.m. Canyon View Community Center, Auburn, CA
11  Southern California Open Space Council
13  Living With Lions (Private Training Workshop for docents & volunteers)
    Eaton Canyon Nature Center, Burbank, CA
14-17  Defenders of Wildlife, Carnivores 2004: Expanding Partnerships in Carnivore Conservation
    Monday, 11/15 – All day, sessions on mountain lion conservation led by MLF, Sante Fe, New Mexico
21  On the Edge for Ventura Hillside Conservancy
    2:00 p.m. Arroyo Verde Park, Ventura, CA

December

4  Living With Lions Presentation (private training for docents only)
    Point Lobos State Reserve, CA
5  Keynote address for Black Hills (South Dakota) Mountain Lion Foundation Fundraising Dinner
11  On the Wild Side (presentation for Hikers and Bikers)
    10:00 a.m. Stough Nature Center, Burbank, CA

January 2005

4  Living with Lions
    7:00 p.m. Vasquez Rocks Nature Area, Agua Dulce, CA
15  Living with Lions (private presentation for Jr. Rangers)
    San Dimas Canyon Nature Center, San Dimas, CA
18-21  Wildlife Society Western Section Conference, Sacramento
26  Living with Lions (private presentation for Docents)
    Sequoia Forest Keepers, Kernville

February

4  Living with Lions (private presentation for Docents)
    Environmental Nature Center, Newport Beach, CA
5  Living With Lions (private presentation for Henry Coe State Park volunteers)
    Morgan Hill, CA
8  Living with Lions
    7:00 p.m. Placerita Canyon Nature Center, Newhall, CA

March

6  Living with Lions
    10:00 a.m. Devil's Punchbowl Nature Center, Pearblossom, CA

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P1 + P2 = 4Ps  continued from page 1

(Continued on next page)
Carnivores 2004 continued from page 8

Cougars, Cores and Corridors (moderated by Lynn Sadler)

Brett Dickson and Paul Beier: Influence of Vegetation, Roads and Urbanization

David Stoner and Michael L. Wolfe: Cougar-Human Interactions: Movement patterns

Jeff Tracey and Kevin Crooks: Individual-based movement approach for evaluating connectivity

Shawn Newell and Paul Beier: Designing Linkages for pumas

Seth Riley, Ray Sauvajot and E.C. York: Movements, activity and food habits in urban landscape

Paul Beier, Linda Sweanor, Rick Hopkins, Jeff Tracey: Managing for Connectivity

Panel Discussion to address the following:

Land trusts, conservation groups and government agencies are increasingly providing funding and incentives to protect and restore wildlife linkages. The challenge now is to manage those corridors so that they continue to provide permeability. Lack of monitoring, inadequate buffering, inappropriate “compatible recreational uses,” and human activity all threaten to render many linkages useless at best and death traps at worst. This panel discussion will explore obstacles to permeability, possible solutions to barriers and research suggestions that would inform corridor protection efforts.

Donate your car

Call 916/442-2666

Mountain Lion Foundation

members in the News

Congratulations to Dr. Edgar Wayburn of San Francisco, California, who was presented with the Howard C. Zahniser Lifetime Achievement Award, for a lifetime of achievement in protecting wilderness. Dr. Wayburn, an MLF member for more than a decade, had a central role in the establishment of Redwood National Park and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and in the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

Dr. Alan Rabinowitz, known for his tireless efforts to protect jaguars and other large cats, has received the prestigious Lowell Thomas Award from the Explorer’s Club, a 100-year-old professional society dedicated to the advancement of field research. Dr. Rabinowitz is being honored for protecting not only wildlife, but also the remote, wild places where they live. Among his accomplishments is the creation of the world’s first jaguar reserve in Belize’s Cockscomb basin. Earlier this year, his research helped lead to the establishment of a 10,000-square-mile reserve for tigers in Myanamar, marking the largest protected area for this species on earth.

From time to time, MLF Review highlights milestones in the lives of members who are the Mountain Lion Foundation. Although it will be impossible to publish them all, members are encouraged to send news clippings of their achievements to MLF. Both paper copies and electronic versions are welcome.

Introduce someone special to the fight to save America’s lion with MLF Gift Memberships and Adopt-a-Lion packages!

Members receive quarterly newsletters, invitations to local events, as well as legislative and special alerts.

Mountain lions are elusive creatures and these adopt-a-lion packages are symbolic only. Special adoption packages include: Welcome scroll, Personalized Adoption Certificate, mountain lion photograph, and more!

Either package makes a nice gift and is tax-deductible.
Lynn Sadler thanks Wendy P. McCaw for her generous support of mountain lions and MLF and congratulates her on winning The M. Köhl Douglas Anthropist of the Year Award by the Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Community Foundation.

Lynn Sadler with Wildlife Conservation Network activist and actress, Isabella Rossellini (ok so nobody looks that good next to her!)

SoCal Field Rep Christa Mann and Lynn Sadler pose with Tippi Hedron at an event to celebrate mountain lions as this year’s ambassador animal for Shambala Preserve and the ROAR Foundation.

Assembly Member Tim Leslie and Lynn Sadler in high spirits over signing of Sierra Conservancy Bill.
Hi Michelle,

My friend, Cathy, said that she met you at the 4H conference in Mariposa. Cathy said that you had published the plans for the lion proof goat enclosure. A couple of years ago, my friend had told me about the enclosure. I had lost all of my goats to a lion several years prior, and had decided that I could not have goats because of the risk of losing them. I was thrilled to think that I could once again have pet goats and that they would be safe. As you can see we made some changes to your plan. Our goat fort is 18'x24' and has an area to store hay and other goat things. I have been very happy with our goat fort and my goats seem to be happy too.

Janice

Janice’s new goats moved into this predator-proof pen in July 2003 and although there have been mountain lion sightings in the area, there has been no sign of problems. The goats are only allowed to roam in the pasture under her watchful supervision, but Janice says, “They prefer the pen!” Janice upgraded her pen design to take into account other dangers from living in rural Amador County. The chain-link sides were extended underground to prevent domestic dogs and coyotes from digging under to gain entry.

This is a perfect example of how MLF’s message and programs spread exponentially by word-of-mouth, and it goes even further. As a member of a goat news group, Janice has shared the information about these predator-proof pens and protecting pets and livestock with others around the world. She has even mailed copies of her pen plans as far away as Africa.

Light-load and heavy-load pen plans are available free of charge on the MLF website, in the publications section.