Politics vs. Science

Oregon

Oregon’s Cougar Management Plan calls for killing more than 3,000 lions over the next five years, up to 45% of which would be females. Research indicates that up to 50% of these females will be mothers with dependent young. Trophy hunters are already killing more than 400 lions per year.

Worse, if sport hunters cannot kill enough to satisfy Oregon’s quotas, federal hunters will be called in to complete the job. Federal funding will pay for this service – your tax dollars at work – and, to top it off, this agency uses traps, snares, poison and dog packs. These methods are dangerous to all animals and Oregon voters have twice voted to make them illegal for use by sport hunters.

In 2005 there were three failed legislative attempts to change sport hunting regulations – it is clear the citizens of Oregon do not want to allow killing more lions.

As you know from action alerts, Oregon’s game agency accepted public comments on the draft plan through November 20th and hearings will begin in January. MLF has been and remains involved in every step of this process and will continue to protest the call for increasing the unnecessary killing of lions. Currently Oregon has a management plan in place which specifically targets lions involved in conflict situations and further allows the random shooting of mountain lions for fun, whether or not they have caused a conflict. Enough is enough.

This draft plan should be tossed in the garbage and a new one written that includes comprehensive conservation planning, protects the habitat necessary to naturally sustain mountain lion populations, promotes co-existence with lions and is consistent with the recently published Cougar Management Guidelines, prepared by the senior mountain lion scientists in the nation.

South Dakota

South Dakota’s first-ever sport hunting season for mountain lions opened October 1st, despite MLF’s extensive protests and legal actions to prevent it. Although the legal battle was lost, the war is far from over. MLF brought international attention to this recreational hunt and the predicted tragedies that ensued.

The hunt’s quota for killing was set at 25 lions or 5 breeding age females, whichever came first. The game agency had estimated only 145 lions in the entire state. The first lion fell less than 24 hours after the hunt began – a breeding age female, accompanied by a smaller lion, according to the hunter.

By October 25th, the season was over with a death toll of 13 lions, 5 breeding age females, 2 females considered non-breeding age, and 6 males. Due to the persistent pressure from MLF, this hunt, complete with details of each killed lion, remained in the news. When the second lion killed was reported as a nursing mother, MLF immediately issued a demand that South Dakota Game, Fish and Park (SDGFP) officials search for and rescue the kittens.

SDGFP made an unprecedented search for these kittens and, with the help of the hunter who had killed their mother, were able to locate and rescue her three kittens. These kittens were taken to South Dakota State University to be used as research animals.

Before the dust settled, another nursing mother lion was killed sending SDGFP on a second rescue mission, that resulted in three more kittens being transferred to SDSU for their research projects. When a third female lion, determined to have recently been lactating, was killed, another search and rescue operation was launched. This time a kitten was found, weighing approximately 30 pounds, and was left to fend for itself in the wild.

The attention brought to the females killed during the hunting season and these kitten search and rescue operations have set a precedent that established a de facto policy change in some western states. It is a questionable fate for these kittens, as they will spend their lives in a zoo, sanctuary or research facility rather than roaming wild and free.

As it is virtually impossible to distinguish a male lion from a female in the wild, the

North Dakota

North Dakota kicked off their mountain lion sport hunting season on September 2 even though there were only eight verified lion sightings in the entire state! To date, no lions have been reported killed – disappointing agency officials who hoped “the hunt would provide insight into their elusive lion population.” In spite of our attorney’s best research, MLF could find no law that was broken by this insanity.

continued on page 4
Where there's a will, there's a way!

Good news for those of you who want to support MLF's mission and increase funding for programs that save America's lion.

Under a new law for this year only, donors have until December 31, 2005 only, to fully deduct charitable donations up to 100% of income. The deduction applies regardless of the gift source, so withdrawals and gifts may also be made from 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans or other qualified retirement plans. Consult your advisor for how you might take advantage of this special tax relief program.

Here are some other ways to give:

- Workplace Giving encourages employee giving through payroll deduction programs such as EarthShare or United Way. Corporations often match their employees' gifts. Check with your employer and possibly double or triple your donation to MLF!
- Automatic Donations can be set up on a monthly or quarterly basis for 2006. This reduces fundraising costs and allows more money to go directly to MLF programs.
- Tribute Gifts are a thoughtful way to celebrate the memory of or to honor someone special.
- Donate a Vehicle with one phone call to arrange for pick-up and you're done.
- Planned Gifts provide a legacy for lions making provisions for a gift through your will or trust. You don't have to be wealthy to designate MLF as a beneficiary of your IRA, insurance policy, or pension. Members have saved mountain lions by willing their stock, their homes, and their cash to MLF.

To learn more about these and other giving programs, visit www.MountainLion.org or call Tim Dunbar 800-312-7621. All donations are tax-deductible.

Get trained to help lions

This New Year, make a resolution to help lions right in your community. Sign up now for training to help educate your neighbors about mountain lions. Whether you choose to be a local voice for lions, organize pen builds, monitor media or pass out literature, this training provides everyone with the tools to save America's lions. Call 800/319-7621 or e-mail mlf@mountainlion.org for details and to RSVP.

E-News: Always Tree Free

The E-News Service is an invaluable way for members and supporters to stay current on MLF and lions in the news and to get involved in the most time-sensitive campaigns.

This fall, subscribers received daily updates on the heated battle in South Dakota and responded to Action Alerts, sending hundreds of letters, e-mails and phone calls to policymakers in South Dakota and Oregon.

Holiday Giftshop

2006 Calendar
Celebrate the beauty of these magnificent creatures throughout the coming year. $15.00

Voice From the Sea, Margaret Owings
MLF Founder Margaret Owings' final work is an inspiring compilation of prose, poetry and drawings from throughout her career. $20.00

Desert Puma, Ken Logan and Linda Sweanor
The most detailed assessment ever produced of the biology and ecology of mountain lions. A powerful contribution to cougar conservation. $45.00

Wild Cats of the World, Mel and Fiona Sunquist
Everything you ever wanted to know about every cat on earth in one book that is pretty to look at and fun to read. $45.00

Spirit of the Rockies, Tom Mangelson and Cara Shea Blessley
Chronicles 42 days in the life of a lion-ess and her three cubs Jackson Hole, WY, through the beautiful photography of Mangelson and text by Blessley. $25.00

Mountain Lion: An Unnatural History of Pumas and People, Chris Bolgiano
Traces the compelling history of this elusive creature, focusing on its interactions with human beings throughout the years. $20.00

Who Ate the Backyard?, Charlie Craighead
How to attract, avoid, or simply live in peace with the animals that inhabit the same places we do. Written specifically for the Rocky Mountain Region. $20.00

People and Predators, From Conflict to Coexistence
Each chapter deals with a specific facet of human-carnivore interaction and offers practical, concrete approaches to resolving the conflict under consideration. The Mountain Lion chapter is based on work and research done at MLF. $35.00

New! MLF Special Gift Cards. Give the gift of your values this holiday season by letting people know you are saving America's lion in their name. $15 each or pack of 7 for $100.

WIDER SELECTION @
NEW ONLINE GIFT SHOP
New! Mountain Lion Foundation on-line Giftshop at CafePress.com offers a wider selection of unique designs on popular items including apparel, mugs, bags, and more. Visit this online giftshop at www.MountainLion.org. Visit often, as new items will be added regularly. Now featuring:

Holiday Greeting Cards, pack of 6 (blank inside) $12.99 plus shipping
Porcelain Holiday Ornament, 2 7/8” Round $7.99 plus shipping

Make your on-line dollars help save America's Lions
NEW! Support the Mountain Lion Foundation when you shop online! Start at www.MyCause.com/mountainlion and link to top Internet retailers you normally shop for books, music, software, computers, travel and more. Up to 12% of your total purchase will be donated to MLF and costs you nothing extra. Help build support by asking friends and colleagues to start their online shopping experiences at www.MyCause.com/mountainlion.

To order, use the enclosed envelope and order form on the reverse of your reply slip.

MLF Gift Memberships and Adopt-a-Lion packages!

Introduce someone special to Saving America's Lion with MLF Gift Memberships and Adopt-a-Lion packages!

- Members receive the MLF Review, invitations to local events, as well as legislative and special alerts.
- Mountain Lions are elusive and these adopt-a-lion packages are symbolic only. Special adoption packages include: Welcome letter, Personalized Adoption Certificate, mountain lion photograph and more.

Either package makes a nice gift for only $25 and is tax-deductible.
News Worthy

More often than not, news coverage of local lion sightings perpetuates fear which leads to lions being killed needlessly. What audiences really want to know is, “Why is there a lion nearby and how long will it be here?”

Thanks to a generous grant from Bozack and Kruger Foundation, MLF is providing a complete media toolkit for the coverage of mountain lion sightings in any area. Journalists will have on-demand access to these tools so their reporting of these sightings can give accurate information on lions and empower their audiences with the information they need to remain safe and calm until the lion leaves the area—making their news worthy of their lions.

In addition to cutting edge technology, MLF also depends on you to be the local media watchdogs. When a sighting is covered in a sensationalized manner or provides inaccurate information, call your local station manager or the editor, demanding that the community has the right to the best information available. Remind them of the MLF media toolkit available free of charge, available 24/7 for their use.

Politics vs. Science cont. from page 1

percentage of females killed during any sport-hunting season is unavoidable. As females spend the majority of their lives with dependent young, it is impossible to allow trophy hunting and still prevent the orphaning of kittens. The youngest die of dehydration or starvation and the older kittens, lacking the necessary hunting skills for their natural prey, are shot for depredation when seeking an easy meal.

Update on P-1’s kittens, Southern California’s most famous young ‘uns

This just in from the National Park Service: The yearling kittens seem to be doing well after the death of their mother. They stayed around the area for about a week. Since that time, they have widely dispersed across the Santa Monica Mountains. Three of the four yearling kittens moved west into areas they had previously explored with their mother. One male, though, moved east. He has been very interesting and has wandered into totally new territory near the Getty Center. Currently, he has moved back west a bit, residing in the vicinity of Topanga State Park. Apparently, they have all been hunting successfully.

All four yearling kittens are monitored via the small implanted transmitters inserted several months ago. These transmitters are quite weak and require a tremendous amount of field labor to track their movements and locations. Fortunately, the lions are old enough and large enough now to be radio-collared. Their new radio collars are on the way, and the hope is to have them collared before Thanksgiving.

Up to now, none of the yearlings have crossed any major freeway. However, it will likely be necessary for at least one and probably both males to disperse across these roads (likely Highway 101), so we are anxious to keep close track.