Florida Panthers Aided by Predator Proof Pens

Not even Tropical Storm Barry could dampen the enthusiasm of these predator proof pen builders in Naples, Florida -- although the downpours certainly dampened pretty much everything else! At one point, the wind was so strong, the crew decided to hold off putting the roof tarp on until the storm had passed.

Regardless, the local volunteers finished two pens on Saturday and now Rege and Al are keeping their goats safe. Just down the road, Rebecca is protecting her canine companions. Due to excellent media coverage, people all over the region now have access to MLF's easy instructions for building their own pens.

The day after those two builds, most of the crew came back to brave the steaming heat while building a demonstration pen at the Collier County Extension! All told, County Commissioner Henry Coletta, along with volunteers from the Mountain Lion Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Parks Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Collier County Extension Service and Friends of the Panther Refuge joined 4-H kids and families for an educational, fun and animal friendly weekend.

Special thanks to the Florida office of Defenders of Wildlife for organizing and sponsoring the event to Protect People, Pets, Lifestock and the federally endangered Florida Panthers!
**WEDDING PLANNING IN LION COUNTRY**

When choosing the redwood forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains as her wedding location, MLF Outreach Director Karen Cotton knew the location was the perfect fit when she was greeted by the mountain lion interpretative board that MLF had created with California State Parks. She will be married in lion country – as evidenced by posters, as the one above, each reinforcing the fact that mountain lions are residents there and outlining responsibilities of good neighbors. Best wishes to Karen and Steve!

**VOLUNTEER walks to raise funds for the Foundation**

Shown here with her husband, Len, MLF Board member and volunteer Beth Sullivan captained a team of walkers, runners and rollers in the Marin Human Race, a walkathon allowing teams to raise money for their favorite cause. This was a first for Sullivan, who admits, “I never knew raising money for MLF could be so easy.” By simply asking a few people to sponsor her, she raised almost $2,000 for MLF and increased awareness of her interest in protecting mountain lions. MLF
Wildlife Corridors Reduce Roadkill

In some parts of the country, car strikes are the number one way that mountain lions die. Cougars often have no choice but to cross roads to get to food, water and a mate. Unfortunately, they are no match for a speeding car. Unable to gauge the inertia behind a moving vehicle, cougars are often killed on impact when they try to roam. Worse, many lie battered along the road until, mercifully, they die or are put down.

In less than two months, a record number of federally endangered Florida panthers were killed by cars this year. In Southern California, road kill has been a significant cause of death. In other parts of the country, sections of highways have been nicknamed such macabre expressions as “Roadkill Road” or “Slaughter Alley.”

One organization was formed just to record the dead wild animals along a specific stretch of highway.

“We are dedicated to stopping this carnage,” said Lynn Sadler, President and CEO of the Mountain Lion Foundation. “We can build passes for wildlife to safely cross roads and we can manage wildlife corridors so that roads and other barriers are never built in the first place.”

Toward that goal, Ms. Sadler was elected president of South Coast Wildlands as it expands its Missing Linkages work. That project identifies, maps, designs and supports implementation of wildlife linkages. Its pilot program in Southern California has been adopted by a number of local, state and federal agencies and NGOs in California, Arizona, and Colorado.

She has met with officials in Oregon to initiate a similar corridor protection program in that state and is part of a working group in Florida to reduce roadkill there.

Southern California Field Representative Christa Kermode is supporting the Linkage efforts by educating the public about the corridors in their areas. In the Central Sierra, Americorps member Rachel Chisholm is creating a succinct presentation outlining wildlife needs for the Range of Light.

And, of course, Proposition 117’s Habitat Conservation Fund still has another 13 years of funding to protect habitat and corridors. More than one million acres have been protected thus far.

“We are making land use decisions today that will create roads twenty years from now,” Sadler says. “We can’t wait till the bulldozers are fired up. We have to protect the corridors now if mountain lions are to survive our grandchildren.”

MLF's e-news program delivers the latest news, action alerts and event invitations in the most cost effective and timely manner. To receive a free gift of personalized mountain lion address labels delivered to you electronically, subscribe today at www.MountainLion.org.
MLF GIFTSHOP

OFFERED THROUGH CAFEPRESS.COM PARTNERSHIP
MLF's online Giftshop links directly to the MLF shop at CafePress.com where a variety of holiday and everyday items are offered featuring cougar artwork. Shipping charges will be added to all CafePress purchases.

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Adopt-A-Lion
Symbolic adoption packages include: welcome letter, personalized adoption certificate, mountain lion photo and the knowledge you are helping to Save America's Lion. $25.

2008 Calendar
Celebrate the beauty of these magnificent creatures throughout the coming year. $15

Little Cats, Bobbie Kahlman
Young readers will enjoy reading about all the cats in the small cat family. Back by popular demand and available in very limited quantities. $8
Gift Cards
Honor someone special this holiday season with a gift donation and MLF will send them this beautiful card.

Be sure to include the name and address of your honoree and the amount you wish to donate in their name.

Greeting Cards
All cards feature full color photos with choice of matte or glossy finish. Each is made of high quality, chlorine and acid free matte paper consisting of 30% re-used and 50% recycled fiber.

Note Cards, sold in packs of 10, blank inside $11.99

Holiday Cards, sold in packs of 20, message inside (May Peace, Joy, Hope and Happiness be yours during this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year) $26.99

Sold individually, blank inside

Holiday Note Cards, sold in packs of 20, message inside (Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful Holiday Season and a very Happy New Years) $19.99

iGive.com — Back to School Shopping Benefits MLF

Benefit MLF with your online shopping by becoming a member of iGive.com. It's FREE, no invisible costs or tricky obligations. Shop for everyday items at 630+ participating stores and up to 26% of each purchase is donated to MLF. For a limited time, MLF receives a bonus $5 donation for each new member's first purchase. Join today at iGive.com/MLF.
PUT THE RIFLE DOWN TODAY

Question: When is the best time to intervene in a situation where a lion is about to be shot?

Answer: Many months ago.

It is heartbreaking each time MLF staff and volunteers learn of another mountain lion needlessly killed at the hands of humans. Whether the death came as a result of sport hunting, depredation permit, public safety kill or road kill, the result is always the same – one less lion playing out its role in the wild.

It is heart-wrenching when a call is received from a concerned citizen alerting MLF that a lion is about to be killed and demanding that something be done. These situations are almost always the result of a local authority declaring this particular lion a public safety threat. Once that declaration is made and the hunt is on, it is almost impossible for MLF to stop the bullet from being fired. Staff can and do help each caller understand the best on-the-scene tactics to avoid the lion being killed, or at least being killed in vain.

Everyday MLF proactively strives to implement policies and procedures that will protect mountain lions. The majority of this work is done at the state and regional level, and recently at the national level. MLF relies on its members to reinforce these policies and procedures locally with neighbors, schools and decision makers.

In practically every case where a lion is killed as a public safety threat, there is no plan of action in place. Local authorities are faced with making a decision on the spur of the moment while parents and schools worry about the safety of their children. Armed with knowledge and a plan of action, parents and schools won’t needlessly worry and authorities will have the time to make the best decision.

How can you make a difference in how your community responds to mountain lions? Using tools provided by MFL, you can:

- Distribute educational brochures
- Conduct or sponsor an educational presentation
- Contribute MLF articles to local newsletters for publication
- Write opinion pieces for your local newspapers or newsletters
- Respond and comment on articles published in print and online
- Encourage local news to broadcast MLF PSAs when there is a lion sighting
- Distribute door hangers in your neighborhood when there is a lion sighting
- Provide your local authorities with a copy of the “Cougar Management Guidelines”

Today is the best time to stop the rifle from being aimed tomorrow at a lion. Help your neighbors understand that mountain lions are here, they are important and when they come too close for comfort, they will move on given the opportunity.

MLF

Cougar Updates from around the country

Each year in almost every western state, policies and legislation are introduced which will have a negative impact on mountain lion populations. MLF experts examine each of these and evaluate the potential effect, then comment and testify as to the merits and shortcomings. MLF members are called on to write letters to appropriate decision makers supporting MLF’s position. And it is often months before the final results of these actions is known.

Earlier this year, Nevada introduced AB259 which would have effectively removed all protections from mountain lions and would have changed the name of the Department of Wildlife to the Department of Fish and Game.

The good news is that efforts of MLF and members were rewarded when all references to mountain lions were removed from AB259 prior to its approval. And, at least the name of the Department still signals some dedication to animals in their natural state.

Unfortunately, over the last year both Missouri and Oklahoma removed mountain lions from the state’s protected mammal list without implementing any plans to restrict their killing. Ironically, the mountain lion remains on Oklahoma’s “species of greatest need list.”

The battles continue to rage in other states. In South Dakota, the state game agency actually increased the number of females that can be killed, leaving behind even more orphaned kittens. MLF continues to educate the public, and look for ways to abolish dangerous cougar policies. Thanks to all MLF members who are helping to keep the pressure on these agencies.

MLF
4-H Members Protecting Livestock in Lion Country

MLF is proud to announce the first participants in MLF's newly revised Rural Partners program at work in the Central Sierra of California.

The Chicago Park 4-H Club will represent the Rural Partner for Nevada County. Chicago Park 4-H Club is located quite literally in the middle of the mountain lion controversy — many of the livestock owners who called for the recent increase in trapper funding are located in Chicago Park, and the area is not surprisingly great habitat for mountain lions and other important wildlife.

Chicago Park 4-H Club leader Sue Barnickol is excited to involve her club in this project to increase animal husbandry standards and instill a sense of personal responsibility for the care of the member's livestock.

When asked why her club should be selected, Barnickol said, "Because we are motivated to learn and to do the right thing! To keep our livestock safe without killing all the wildlife that was here before we were."

When asked whether club members have methods in place specifically to protect their livestock from predators, Barnickol said, "Some do, some do not. I feel this year we are educating members more, but I'm not sure we are doing enough or the right thing." Barnickol wants to create a means of institutionalizing the existing knowledge on predators and protection methods in the community.

In Amador County, rather than choosing one group to participate, project leaders have begun working to form a county-wide predator protection working group to implement non-lethal methods and create models for protecting livestock and wildlife. At the initial meeting, almost everyone present had lost livestock to mountain lions and had a story to tell.

To kick off this county-wide endeavor, the Riverpines Highlanders 4-H Club worked with project leaders Emily Cunnison and Rachel Chisholm to create and display an educational exhibit at the Amador County Fair. The exhibit highlighted non-lethal predator control methods as a way to enlighten Fair visitors and create interest in their role as Rural Partners. As a bonus for these 4-Hers, their exhibit received an award. MLF
While recently on tour in Oregon to campaign against the state's horrible cougar policies, MLF's Lynn Sadler visited with Anna in Portland who showed the crowd how to look big if you see a cougar. Earlier that day, Ms. Sadler and Anna also testified before the Oregon Legislature opposing the bill that allows trophy hunters to be authorized as state-sanctioned cougar hunters.