MLF Celebrates 15 years of protecting wildlife habitat

In the first half of its existence, the Habitat Conservation Fund, created by Prop 117's Mountain Lion Initiative, has protected more than one million acres and hundreds of miles of waterways in California.

The HCF ensures that at least $30 million per year for 30 years is distributed to the responsible state agencies dedicated to protecting habitat for some of California's most awesome residents, such as the bald eagle, the mule deer, the Chinook Salmon, the mountain lion and the human being.

"More than 5,000 volunteers gathered signatures for Prop 117 and even we could not have imagined the unprecedented success of that effort," said Lynn Sadler, MFL President.

The Mountain Lion Foundation has announced a website to celebrate the vision of the voters that passed that ballot measure.

HabitatConservationFund.org (also accessible through our home page MountainLion.org) allows you to search for areas protected by the HCF in your community as well as learn how to use the HCF to protect your favorite places.

Additionally, MLF has supplied land trust and conservancy partners with beautiful color booklets for use in sharing information about this important fund with decision-makers.

Special thanks to the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, GreenInfo Network, the Planning and Conservation League and the California Council of Land Trusts for their support in funding, researching, producing and distributing this information. MLF

Oregon cougar policies annihilating wildlife

In spite of all of our best efforts, Oregon continues to be its own special hell for both mountain lions and mountain lion policy. In the Winter MLF Review you read about Lucky, the cougar kitten, which was orphaned and not allowed to be rescued by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

You've received appeals about the horribly flawed Oregon Cougar "Management" Plan that would pay agents to kill 3,000 more lions than are already killed by trophy hunters. We alerted you to the bills in the legislature that would authorize trophy hunters to do that killing.

Our media clippings announced that the killing has begun and that ODFW accidentally killed at least three cougars outside the approved zones.

Just when you think it cannot get worse: We learn that ODFW wants to increase the year-round killing by giving sport hunters 125,000 more acres to slaughter on. According to an agency biologist, these acres have a high concentration of cougars and will provide extra "recreational opportunities" during the summer months.

Theoretically, this action requires both notification of the public and a chance for public comment. However, no known stakeholders have been officially notified and the only known meeting is at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Oregon Hunters Association!

In addition to organizing letters, visits, rallies and education, MLF has initiated a new group to fight this insanity at every level. The Oregon Cougar Action Team (OR-CAT) and its volunteer coordinator, Jayne Miller, have put together an organizing tour to train activists to Save America's Lion in Oregon and to be a voice for the cougar. MLF members will receive a free PowerPoint CD, script and materials needed to give public presentations. At press time, MLF President Lynn Sadler was scheduled for the following presentations with more being added:

Tuesday, May 22
6:30 p.m.
Central Oregon Environmental Center
16 NW Kansas
Bend, OR 97701

continued on page 2
Tell us your stories

Do you have a personal story of why mountain lions are important to you? Have you ever seen a wild mountain lion and wanted these special animals to be around for your children or grandchildren? Have you helped your community understand mountain lions, their plight and the actions needed to protect them?

Now is the time to speak up. You have the power to inspire others to go the extra mile for our lions.

Your stories will have an immediate impact. We'll post them online and pass them on to our activists and volunteers. We'll share them with pet and livestock owners and outdoor enthusiasts, who may not understand the control they have over whether lions live or die. We'll share your stories with decision makers and the press to emphasize the desire to save America's lion.

We need to hear from you! Don't worry, we'll edit your stories as needed. Please send your story with photos today to Karen@mountainlion.org or P.O. Box 1896, Sacramento, CA 95812.

Nevada considering open-season on mountain lions

Nevada's Assembly Bill 259 declares open season on mountain lions, with no restrictions on how, when or how many mountain lions can be killed. Seriously, AB 259 specifically allows for aerial hunting from airplanes or helicopters, the use of spring guns, set guns or "other devise for the destruction of a mountain lion."

And just in case anyone missed the point, AB259 calls for the Nevada Department of Wildlife to be renamed the Department of Fish and Game, reinforcing the view that wildlife in Nevada is merely fodder for sport hunters.

AB259 has been approved by the Committee for Natural Resources, Agriculture and Mining and now waits approval by the Ways and Means Committee. From there it will go to the Assembly floor for approval.

MLF and our local supporters have been at the hearings, offering testimony and fighting AB259 in every way possible. Your help is needed.

Let's stop this bill now! Write Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons at State Capitol, 101 N. Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701. Tell him in your own words why he must veto AB259 if it comes to his desk.

Tell us your stories
Safe Passages

South Coast Wildlands, an MLF partner, is nearing completion on its Missing Linkages project to identify, map and protect the most threatened wildlife corridors in Southern California. Watch for the final reports in the near future!

In the meantime, MLF knows completion of this project, critical to the survival of mountain lions, is the beginning of the next challenge. With MLF’s Safe Passages project, southern California field representative Christa Mann is helping residents, visitors and decision-makers learn not only the importance of these corridors to the survival of mountain lions and other wildlife, but also develop a tolerance for the encounters that occur wherever wildlife roams.

Targeting communities and neighborhoods around the Santa Monica, Santa Susana, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana mountain ranges, Ms. Mann and her volunteer crew have taught these lessons to more than 400 people through educational seminars and have provided helpful information to more than 12,000 people at local events. Thanks to the Wendy P. McCaw Foundation for their support of this project.

If you live in southern California, would like to be part of the Safe Passages volunteer team helping communities learn how to live with lions, know of an opportunity to help MLF meet our latest challenge in the Los Angeles Basin, or would like to receive “SoCal Connections” please contact Christa Kermode at (805)813-1221 or ckermode@mountainlion.org. MLF

Western Cougars Aid Florida Panther

The Florida Panther, that state’s federally endangered mountain lion, slowly recovering from near extinction, is running into the same problems that its western cousins do. Exploding human population, coupled with loss and fragmentation of habitat, is bringing more and more panthers in contact with humans.

Taking advantage of 20 plus years of experience with this issue in the West, MLF is serving as advisor and partner with numerous agencies and non-profits to help Floridians and panthers co-exist peacefully.

Partnering with Defenders of Wildlife, the US Fish and Wildlife Agency, National Parks Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, National Wildlife Federation and the Collier County Extension Service, MLF will help build livestock pens at two residences on June 2. On June 3, with 4-H families, two types of pens will be built at the Extension Service premises in Golden Gate Estates near Naples on June 3. The pens will serve as demonstration projects to show people how to protect their hobby livestock and pets from panthers (which in turn prevents panthers from getting into trouble).

MLF members who volunteer at these building opportunities will receive MLF t-shirts and be included at a special reception with MLF President Lynn Sadler. RSVP by contacting MLF@mountainlion.org. MLF

Happy Earth Day!

Volunteer action is the backbone of the Mountain Lion Foundation. It was volunteer activists who formed MLF. It was more than 5,000 volunteers who collected signatures to pass Proposition 117. And most recently it was volunteers who staffed MLF exhibits at more than 25 Earth Day events to raise awareness of MLF, our programs and the plight of mountain lions in these areas. Pictured here are Kaitlyn Pereira, Drake Wertenerberger, Brianne Hill, Lyn Whitcomb (MLF member and volunteer since 1992), Amanda Rickert, Carrie Dillard, and Lisa Pucketcenter. They regularly represent MLF at events in the northern California area. MLF
Regards,
Sue
Orange County 4-H

Here are the photos from our 4H goat, sheep, and pig enclosures I was telling you about at Pet Expo. They aren’t pretty, but they work!!!!
Haven’t had a problem with mountain lions for 7 years!!!!
It’s a great thing that you do.
Keep it up!!!!

If you know of a group in this area that would benefit from this partnership, encourage them to contact Emily Cunnison at 800-319-7621 ext 106 or Emily@mountainlion.org immediately.

Almost one-third of the mountain lions killed in California for livestock depredation are killed in the Central Sierra. MLF is now recruiting 4-H, FFA and other youth groups active in animal husbandry for the Rural Partners project in this area. One group will be selected from each of the seven counties—Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, El Dorado, Placer, Amador and Calaveras.

As Rural Partners, these young people will learn and implement pro-active methods for protecting their livestock, which in turn protects mountain lions. Living the lessons they learn, they will be positive models for their community and for other youth groups across the country.

2007 Membership Drive

- $400,000
- $300,000
- $200,000
- $100,000
- $70,215
- $0