

ARIZONA WILDLIFE

The Territorial Years
1863-1912

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Editor

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LIONS, TIGRES, AND BEARS—AND WOLVES, TOO
Perspectives on Arizona's Big Predators

**FOUR LARGE WOLVES ATTACK CHARLES KOOTZ
 AT WORK IN A FIELD, NEAR BRADSHAW CITY.
 ARE DRIVEN OFF WITH SHOVEL.**

Weekly Arizona Miner, May 28, 1875

Prior to the mid-1880s, wolves, lions, and bears—the big predators—were thought of as sources of adventure more than economic threats. This attitude changed with the proliferation of livestock in the 1880s and the drought years of the early 1890s. Now these animals were despised as livestock destroyers that were costing ranchers and homesteaders money—money that was often in short supply. The principal offenders were wolves, lions, and “big bears” and the usual victims, calves, colts, and sheep, varying by location and the species of predator involved. Interestingly, the territorial periodicals make little mention of predators taking game animals. Such concerns would come later, after the advent of sport hunting and the involvement of public agencies in wildlife management.

The usual remedy, at least early on, was the liberal application of a dose of strychnine to the remaining carcass:

W. D. Fenter killed one large gray wolf, one silver tipped bear, and three mountain lions by beef liver with strychnine. He dressed the bear and wolf skins. By selling them he will recoup in part the loss of twenty-five calves killed during the past summer by these wild beasts.

Arizona Daily Star, December 22, 1887

GRAY WOLF

Initially, this species is almost always mentioned as being rare and secondary to coyotes in numbers and importance. Most chroniclers, including Hinton (1878) described gray wolves as inhabiting “the mountain country, though they are very scarce.” Then, in the late 1880s, newspaper accounts of wolves begin to increase, primarily because stockmen attributed losses to them. Arizona wolves were almost always referred to as occurring alone or in pairs, more rarely as family groups.

There are virtually no reports of large packs hauling down beeves and other stock:

Shann won distinction of killing the largest gray wolf ever seen in Arizona. Old timers say it was the largest specimen of the lupus family they had seen . . . It is supposed that during the present season this wolf had killed 200 calves in the neighborhood of Mt. Lemmon.

Arizona Daily Star, September 1, 1895

Despite bounties and the widespread use of strychnine, wolves were considered to be as much or more of a problem at the turn of the century than before. Not only could wolf depredations be substantial, they could also be a persistent problem. Even germ warfare would be considered if it meant eliminating these costly predators:

Range News: — How to prevent depredations on live stock by wolves and other wild animals, is one of the difficult problems demanding solution at the hands of our legislative solons. In several of the counties the indebtedness has passed the four per cent limit and the Harrison act prohibits payments of money for any but necessary expenses. For these counties there is no apparent means of relief, except through the stockmen's own efforts. If the suggested plan of seeking to discover some deadly contagion with which wolves could be inoculated should prove a success, a great tax upon the cattle industry would be removed.

Silver Belt, January 19, 1899

Even with fully stocked rangelands and game numbers in decline, the highly adaptable wolf persisted and may even have increased its numbers after the turn of the century. As statehood approached, losses were such that the wolf assumed the role of the territory's most wanted livestock predator, with pairs and individual animals blamed for the loss of scores of livestock far and wide:

ARIZONA COWBOYS ROPE TWO WOLVES

Two lobo wolves will never again prey upon the calves of the Stewart-Bolton range, 30 miles north of Roosevelt. They were lassoed a few days ago by Jim McFarland, foreman of the ranch, and Jim Morrell, one of the cowboys, says the *Phoenix Enterprise*.

...

Supervisor Stewart states that cattlemen north of Roosevelt

have lost hundreds of calves during the winter and early summer as the result of depredations of lobo wolves.

Arizona Daily Star, June 18, 1907

Even a few wolves could cause much consternation, and neither generous bounty payments nor persistent persecution sufficed to reduce the numbers of these "stock-killers" below a level from which they could not rebound:

But notwithstanding the size of the bounty paid, and the systematic manner in which these things were hunted, it is more than safe to say that not six legitimate wolf hides have been offered to the county in the course of the year. . . . And so far as bear are concerned, this brute is unusually scarce. Once in a while one is brought to Tucson, but their coming will not average more than about one in five years.

Arizona Daily Star, January 14, 1911

Despite ever increasing bounties and professional hunters hired by ranchers and the U.S. Forest Service, little relief was realized. Even though wolf numbers in Arizona probably never exceeded a few hundred, and the smaller coyote greatly outnumbered them, the wolf was destined to remain Arizona's top predator through to statehood. It wasn't until the advent of a fulltime federal wolf-control program in 1914-1915 that more wolves could be killed than could be produced. Only with salaried government hunters in the field constantly, could sufficient pressure be applied over a sufficiently long period of time to eliminate the hard to get "holdouts." Only after the wolf's ranks were so reduced that remnant animals had no possibility of finding a mate and recouping their losses, would *el lobo* be eradicated from Arizona (Brown 1983).

MOUNTAIN LIONS

Mountain lions, panthers, or cougars as they were variously called were always newsworthy, and the territory's newspapers contain dozens of lion accounts. Reports in the 1870s and 1880s indicate that the species was relatively abundant and a serious threat to stockmen, with colts, sheep, and calves the prey mentioned most frequently:

A mountain lion that has been causing considerable loss to the farmers of Walnut Creek, by the destruction of calves and colts, has been killed.

Phoenix Herald, August 13, 1880

Mountain lions are playing havoc in southern Pima county. John Bogan of Bear valley lost fourteen colts this summer by these animals.

Arizona Daily Star, October 13, 1887

A lion killed twenty-two sheep in a corral near the stage station on the Bisbee road a few nights since. He ate one and killed the others for pastime, evidently by striking them with one of his paws which were of immense size, judging from his tracks and wholesale slaughter.

Arizona Daily Star, September 5, 1891

A few of these reports were from areas where lions were later eliminated, and where they occasionally occur today:

SPARKS FROM TEXAS HILL

Charley Hackett while hunting for stock last week in the river bottom, near Teamster's Camp, came in contact with a large lion, which caused him to make a hasty retreat towards his saddle horse. The following day this same lion, got away with a fine, fat calf belonging to Mr. Willis, who lives on the river. The lion most likely destroys considerable stock along the river and the sooner they are put out of the way the better.

Arizona Sentinel, October 30, 1886

To combat lion depredations, pioneer stockmen initially employed the standard remedies for livestock killers—strychnine baits backed up by bounties:

John Pringle brought in two lion scalps, last Tuesday, on which he secured the bounty of \$10 for each scalp. The lions had killed a colt and left a part of the carcass which Mr. Pringle found and poisoned with strychnine. The lions returned and got their bellies full, and Mr. Pringle found their dead bodies next morning.

Silver Belt, September 1, 1894

The problem was that ranchers did not always find their losses, and lions did not always return to their kills. Moreover, the big cats appeared to be developing an aversion to poison.² A method that was proving increasingly more effective than poison was to hunt the lions down with hounds:

²There were other problems with strychnine. Hunting dogs and at least one homesteader's child died after eating baited meats.

J. C. Jones was up from his ranch near the Hot Springs last Saturday. Mountain lions are killing a good deal of stock in that section, and Jones had five young colts killed by them the week before last. He is going to get a pack of hounds and attempt to exterminate them.

Arizona Citizen, September 6, 1890

Even so, there appeared to be no letup in lion numbers or their depredations:

We learn from Denis Murphy and R. F. Jacobi that lions are making serious inroads on young stock on the range eight or nine miles north of Globe. They are especially fond of young colts, nearly all that were foaled in that vicinity this season have fallen victims to their rapacity. Grown horses, have likewise, been attacked and wounded by lions.

Silver Belt, July 7, 1891

The *Courier* says lions are making trouble in the mountains a short distance west of Prescott. They killed three colts for Wm. Deering on a recent night. Mr. Deering says a good hunter with suitable dogs can make good wages in that quarter hunting lions.

Arizona Daily Star, July 28, 1892

It was only a matter of time before hunting lions for sport and trophies added another dimension to the pursuit, and hunting on snow made for better success:

A. Webb-Howe of Syracuse [New York] shipped home today a large lion's skin taken in a recent hunt in the mountains. A great many mountain lions have been killed since winter set in which is a boon to the cattlemen, as the lion is the most destructive animal in Arizona:

Arizona Citizen, March 8, 1893

Some believed that lion numbers might even be increasing, and there were threats of a more ominous nature:

The country in the neighborhood of Steven's ranch in the Sierritas is said to be overrun with mountain lions. Within the last few days several colts and calves have been killed and the

brutes have become so bold that an attack was made on a full-grown horse. The lions are of extraordinary size. Tracks are seen within a short distance of the house.

Arizona Daily Star, August 8, 1895

Only twice did the territorial newspapers report a lion attacking a person, and at least one of these was probably false:

We are told that "Sleepy Sam" at the wool-yard at Johnson's landing on the river, reports having found the body of a man who had evidently been killed by a California lion as there were marks of the claws upon the body and foot prints of a large animal. The body was discovered about the 18th and by some is supposed to be that of a man without a nose, who left Castle Dome not long since.

Arizona Sentinel, December 28, 1878

The above man "without a nose" showed up alive. The remains identity still remained a mystery.

Arizona Sentinel, January 5, 1879

But then as now, lions did occasionally attack humans:

A year ago E. W. Rinehart, while hunting in Sonora, had an experience which is not often accorded a seasoned westerner. He was surprised by being attacked by a mountain lion, which clawed his head seriously, and for a few minutes placed his life in great danger.

Arizona Daily Star, January 8, 1909

By the late 1890s, whether due to declines in game numbers or for other reasons, reports of lion depredations began to reach a crescendo:

A resident of Cave Creek informs the reporter that mountain lions are evidently increasing in the mountains north of the valley. Lately a big tom lion loafed several hours in view of the Cave Creek post office. The late snows on the extreme head waters of Cave Creek seem to have driven them to the lower creek, thus adding considerably to the colony of lions always on Black Mountain, thirty miles due north of Phoenix. The cattlemen up there will at once get lion hounds and will hunt the beast down.

Phoenix Herald in the *Arizona Citizen*
December 27, 1898

The Graham county papers report that mountain lions are destroying young calves in the Graham mountains at an alarming rate, Frank Neese came down from his ranch in Stockton Pass last week and reported that the lions had killed six calves for him during the past week. A lion hunt is being organized in Solomonville.

Arizona Daily Star, December 14, 1899

Pressures on mountain lions intensified, and in 1907, Forest Supervisor R. J. Selkirk was able to report that, exclusive of those animals killed by Forest Service rangers, only five lions had been killed that year on the Santa Rita, Santa Catalina, and Dragoon national forests. Other national forests were also reporting fewer lions being taken; Forest Supervisor W. H. Reed stated that only twenty lions were killed that year on the Tonto National Forest—four of them kittens in a den. Although a young forest ranger named Aldo Leopold described lions on the Apache National Forest in a 1910 letter to the regional forester as “abundant,” Forest Supervisor C. P. Campbell considered the species “scarce” on the adjacent Sitgreaves National Forest that same year, while Prescott Forest Supervisor Charles Hinderer described lions as now being “very scarce.”

Were lion numbers actually being reduced? Obviously, the perceived abundance or scarcity of lions varied with the location and reporter. And for good reason: lion numbers have always ebbed and flowed with the vagaries of deer and other prey populations, and the timing and length of such fluctuations remain as much a mystery today as then. Nonetheless, the number of lions bountied each year during the first half of the century were markedly fewer than today’s annual harvests, and one is led to believe that territorial hunters must have made some inroads in their numbers. And, although there was now other news to report, it is true that progressively fewer lion depredation accounts appeared with the approach of statehood. Nonetheless, the lion in Arizona would persist nearly throughout its former range, eventually assuming the role of the state’s premier livestock and game predator—a status that would result in the lion having a bounty on its head for another sixty years.

JAGUARS (TIGRES)

The newspapers would occasionally mention a jaguar, or *tigre*, then more commonly referred to as a “Mexican leopard.” Altogether, at least thirty



Carolin Brown sits atop a dead jaguar in front of her father's Tucson saloon. Two Hispanic houndsmen, professional bounty hunters, killed the jaguar in the Rincon Mountains in 1902. PHOTO AHS #51506 COURTESY OF THE ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY, TUCSON.

reports make reference to these large tropical cats occurring in Arizona Territory:

The leopard is known to exist in southern Arizona, and several, of a good size, have been killed. They are, however rarely seen (Hinton 1878).

The leopard is found on the western slope of the Baboquivaris and the low ranges of mountains to the west, near the Mexican line. He is a more compact built animal than the lion, and full as heavy. The Papago and Yaqui Indians say he is much more to be feared than the lion. He is beautifully marked, and his skin commands a high price, both here and in Sonora being in demand among the Mexican vaqueros for leggings and saddle trimmings (Hamilton 1884).

Most reports are of individual animals taken as stock-killers:

The skin of the ferocious animal killed by Phil Askins, in Greenback valley recently, was brought into Globe by his partner,

Chas. Bouquet, and placed on exhibition at the post office, where it was greatly admired. The animal undoubtedly a jaguar, the largest and fiercest of the cat species, closely resembling a leopard and a native of South Central America.

Silver Belt, July 26, 1890

There are a few accounts of females, even some of females and young (Brown and Lopéz 2001), and the status of these animals is unclear. Arizona Territory's foremost naturalist, Herbert Brown, was convinced they were residents. In an April 1902 letter to Dr. R. W. Schufeldt of the U.S. National Museum, Brown wrote:

I send you the photograph of a very interesting animal which was killed in the Rincon Mountains, about twenty-five miles east of Tucson, on the 16th of March last; it was killed by two Mexican scalp hunters. They were in the Rincons, above the Cebadilla, where their dogs found the trail of what appeared to be a very large California lion. After a short run the animal was overtaken, and two dogs were killed in the mix-up that followed. It was finally driven into a cave, smoked out and killed.

Brown then went on to express his opinion as to the jaguar's status in Arizona Territory:

I do not think the habitat of this jaguar (*Felis onca*) has ever been credited to Arizona; but you will I think, agree with me that it is fairly well established. Within the last few years several have been killed in Southern Arizona. One was killed in the Chiricahuas, one in the Baboquivaris, and one near Globe. Of the last there were two together, but only one was secured. Another is known to frequent a small range of rocky hills about five miles north of the Tortolita Mountains; it was last seen on the ninth of March, and a determined effort is shortly to be made to get it. There are numerous other places in which it has been taken, but I do not now definitely recall them to mind. I have seen several hides brought in by Papago Indians of animals killed in the mountains southwest of Tucson.

Interestingly, Dillon Wallace, in his 1910 survey of game conditions on the Apache Indian Reservation, hardly mentions wolves but describes jaguars as serious predators of game and livestock.

BOBCATS

Not a few accounts describe bobcats, either the taking of them, or their depredations—each “wildcat” usually being described as a new size record:

A BIG CAT

One of the largest wild cats we ever saw in this section was killed at Turquoise a few days ago by a man named Casey. It was stuffed and mounted and now adorns a table in Col. Hefford's museum. Its length, from tip to tip is 42 inches and its height 14 inches.

Arizona Daily Star, November 25, 1890

BEARS

Bears of both species were prominently mentioned in the territory's newspapers, and both grizzlies or silvertip bears and black or cinnamon bears were described as being relatively common within their respective ranges:

The bruin family are well represented, and almost every wooded mountain throughout the Territory can show a specimen. The grizzly inhabits the White Mountains and the neighborhood of Fort Apache; the cinnamon, the black, and the brown bear are met with in the San Francisco, the Mogollon, the Sierra Blanca, the Bradshaw, the Juniper, Bill Williams, the Mazatal, the Santa Catalinas, the Chiricahuas, the Huachucas, the Santa Ritas, the Galiuro, the Pinal, the Dragoon, the Pinaleño, and in fact, in any mountain range of any size throughout the Territory (Hamilton 1884).

The citizens of Arizona Territory were highly ambiguous in their attitudes toward bears. Although some settlers regarded bears as valuable game animals, the ranchmen, sheepmen especially, adamantly condemned bears as stock-killers:

Either deer cannot be plentiful this season or else hunters are scarce, for but little game has been brought in as yet. Hunters say that the deer are all high upon the mountains. . . . Black and cinnamon bears are said to be plentiful this season, however.

Arizona Daily Star, October 25, 1894

The bears are beginning to make their annual visit to sheep corrals. Norris and Scarborough lost five head one night this

week. The bear killer can secure \$10 for each one killed as this amount is allowed by law for such work.

Flagstaff Democrat in *Arizona Daily Star*
September 2, 1891

Bears, black bears anyway, appear to have been remarkably resilient given the large numbers of bruins reportedly bagged. Not only were these animals abundant, they could be found relatively close to human population centers:

Bear have been having a picnic in the locality of the Anvil Ranch [Saucito Mtns.] and the result has been a killing of bear and lots of bear meat in Tucson. No less than seven of the bruin family have succumbed to the deadly rifles of the nimrods of the Anvil Ranch. The last was taken by Alf Donau, the cattle duke of Pima county. The trophy was hanging in Schumacher's meat market yesterday and the meat was fine.

Arizona Daily Star, November 1, 1897

Domingo Durazo and Fernando Aguilar were out in the Santa Ritas recently. They killed two bears while on the trip.

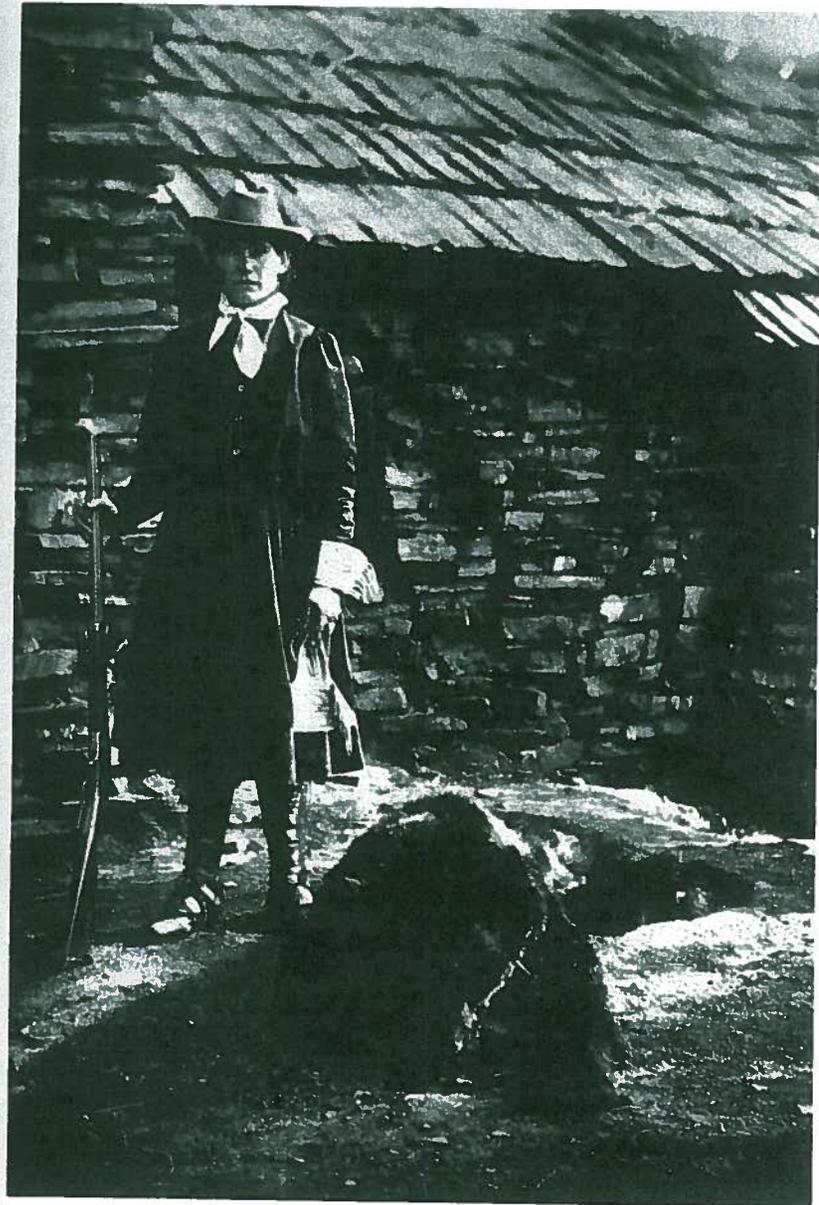
Arizona Daily Star, September 29, 1902

The status of these animals gradually changed, with the expanding livestock industry and the coming of harder times. As bears came to be considered more as predators than game animals, and with saleable meat, valuable hides, and a bounty on their heads, more than one hunter found bear hunting worth while:

George Finley came in last evening from the Rincon mountains where he has been since the 2nd of June with James Miller on a hunting expedition. He brought back three large brown bear skins as a result of the two month hunt.

Arizona Citizen, July 26, 1897

It was also about this time that certain individuals, men such as Bear Howard, Jesse Ellison, Toles (Bear) Cosper, and Ben Lily, took up trapping and hunting bears as a vocation, some of them killing hundreds of bears during their careers (Brown 1985, Bense 1994). With a price on their head and no closed season or bag limit, neither species of bear could withstand such persecution, and reports of "good bear hunting"



Duett Ellison with grizzly killed above Cherry Creek in 1907. A member of a pioneer bear-hunting family, Ellison married George P. Hunt to become Arizona's "first lady."
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ROSCOE WILLSON COLLECTION, ARIZONA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, CHARLES TRUMBELL HAYDEN LIBRARY, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY.

rapidly decline after the turn of the century. Never as numerous as their smaller relatives, the grizzlies became increasingly restricted to the more remote corners of the state, and this species was almost certainly gone from south of the Gila River by 1900. An encounter with a "silvertip" was always a noteworthy event, however, and was sure to generate a retelling—often in the local newspaper:

THE BEAR GOT THE BEST OF IT

A letter received from Ft. Huachuca by E. P. Van Kuren from Ed Montgomery, the hunter states he is in the post hospital. . . . Montgomery was out hunting . . . in the north west end of the Huachuca mountains and met three silver tip bears. . . . He got but one shot and before he could reload the big bear was on him and had it not been for his faithful dog he would not have lived to tell his story³ . . . he walked, crawled and rolled about a mile to the camp of a hunting party.

Arizona Daily Star, December 2, 1890

While in the Graham Mountains one day last week looking after their cattle, Granville Cheyney, Zack Stallings, John Williamson and Fred Ralph jumped a very large silvertip bear, and, after a protracted fight, succeeded in killing it. The bear was chased several miles before being finally dispatched, receiving Winchester bullets in various parts of his body. Mr. Cheney has one of the tusks that measures two inches in length. The bear would have weighed between seven and eight hundred pounds.

Graham County Citizen, in *Arizona Citizen*
September 10, 1892

Farther north, grizzlies, although holding out longer, were treated in a similar fashion. And, as was invariably the case, it was the man who provoked the "fight":

Ed Tewksbury had a perilous encounter with a bear, one day last week, near Berranger's ranch on Cherry Creek, which although Ed was the victor, was the closest call he ever had in a contest with a bruin. Panthers had been killing colts and Ed . . . started

³Despite numerous "fights" and the silvertip's reported ferocity, only two deaths from grizzlies have been reported in Arizona. Richard Wilson was killed by a grizzly near the West Fork of Oak Creek in 1885, and Fred Fritz succumbed partially to wounds received during an encounter with a grizzly in the Blue Range's Maple Canyon in 1898 (Brown 1985, Coor 1992, Bense 1994).

out after their scalps. He struck a fresh trail on rocky ground, but could not tell what kind of animal he was following, until having gone a short distance, he came suddenly upon a she bear of the Silver Tip variety with cubs. Mrs. Bruin resented the intrusion and charged fiercely upon Ed who met the attack with a shot from his Winchester, which, however, did not stop the bear. Attempting to throw a second cartridge into place, it was flung out on the ground, and before another could be adjusted, Tewksbury was in the embrace of the savage beast. He was bitten in the left hand and right knee and was reaching for his knife when the bear released him and started back to her cubs. Ed was not slow to take advantage of the enemy's retreat and two well directed shots finished her. Mr. J. D. Tewksbury, our informant, stated that his son's wounds, while painful, were not thought to be dangerous.

Silver Belt, June 7, 1890

GOT HIS BEAR: J. H. HICKS HAS A HARD FIGHT WITH A 1,200 POUND SILVER TIP

Word comes from the herd of cattle started by our townsman E. S. Gosney a couple of weeks ago to Salt River Valley, in charge of J. H. Hicks with three experienced Knights of the riata, of a most interesting fight with a monster Silver Tip. The herd had rounded up on the bluffs of Bill Williams fork and Hicks had gone ahead to look out the trail, when old Bruin applied for admission into the herd. "Tex" and Walter decided to rope him, but found they had over-sized themselves, and had not Moberly made a timely shot with his forty-four Winchester, Walter's horse, if not the rider, would have paid the penalty.

The fight was brief as it was exciting, and when Hicks returned the boys were exchanging mutual congratulations on the bear's retreat when they had only three cartridges left. Hicks took the Winchester, and remarking that 'three cartridges were two more than an even break,' took the trail into the brush. The rest of the story is best told by himself.

'I looked my way out cautiously, for to run here was impossible. I had gone only a hundred yards when, when an indescribable soul-stirring growl and a smashing the bushes gave notice of a fight at close range with a crippled bear in his native element. He had missed my location and was charging in the brush sixty feet below me. The moment his head reached an opening I fired. For an instant I saw his four black feet and knew

I had hit my mark, the neck. I could not shoot again for the brush until he rallied only a few moments later. This time he knew my location and came directly for me. Knowing the next play was the "rubber," I held my fire until only twenty feet away and placed my second shot square between the eyes. He dropped quivering in his tracks. I gave him my last cartridge and sat down to rest. It is queer how tired a man gets when a good-sized bear offers to shake hands with him and there is no tree near. I did not sleep well that night, and "Tex" tells some bad stories about the affair. Anyway, I have a fine Silver Tip robe and another bear story.'

The animal is reported to have been the monster of the Mogollons and estimated to have weighed twelve hundred pounds.

Coconino Sun, October 1, 1896

A BEAR HUNT

J. H. Drew, who came in from Kingman, gave an interesting account of a bear hunt that came off on Walnut creek that heads in the Baca grant country. J. H. Hamilton and William Ainsworth and a half breed bull dog were the hunters and the hunt resulted disastrously to the bear. They saw his tracks and with the help of the dog trailed him until they caught up with him, or rather caught sight of him. But Mr. Bear was not on the fight, so they gave him a flying shot as he was making off which broke his right thigh. This little incident did not appear to hinder his flight any on the contrary, he traveled faster than before and gave them a chase of three miles before he finally took his stand in a small manzanita thicket and gave notice that he was on the fight. At this juncture one of the men took a pinion tree and the other gained a high ridge of rock overlooking the thicket, while the dog went in and managed to keep the bear pretty busy while the hunters dispatched him with six shots. He was a silver tip, weighed 750 pounds, had four inches of fat on his brisket, was nine feet long and measured six feet across his outstretched fore legs. Mr. Drew recognized the animal as one he had shot at five years ago, hitting it in the right flank. The old scar was there in evidence. On this former occasion there were four bears in the bunch and he killed two and both of the others, who made off. One of those killed weighted 1000 pounds. The account of that killing was written up in the local papers at the time. Drew has a wide reputation as a mighty hunter. The county has paid him in bounties over \$600. — *Prescott Prospect*

Arizona Daily Star, May 12, 1902

Although the bounty on bears had been removed at the time of statehood, neither species of these big omnivores would receive any protection until 1929. Even then, their legal status remained a subject of debate for years—people's attitudes depending on their occupation and the condition of the rural economy—and it was not until the 1960s that bears were finally defined and managed as game animals. This change of heart came too late for Arizona's grizzlies, the last "holdouts" having been killed in eastern Arizona by federal predator control hunters in the 1930s and 1940s (Brown 1985). By this time black bear populations had also been eliminated from such isolated ranges as the Baboquivari and Bradshaw mountains, and it was not until the 1980s that bear populations had recovered to the point that the species could once again be a local nuisance.